LB request to replace air-conditioning unit at House OK'd. PAGE 2
Saipan wholesaler found in violation of minimum wage, overtime rules. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 198

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COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:24pm, Oct.5, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **82.4%**

Days since last community transmission: **195**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,137
Fully Vaccinated:	29,465
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,869
Fully Vaccinated:	4,652
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	814

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	15,362	103*	15,465
Recovered	11,372	1,666	13,038
Active	2,120	103	2,223
Deaths	198	6	204

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	272	0	272
Traced via Travel Screening	235	0	235
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

*10/4=40; 10/3=63
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

'It will be a struggle next year'

'Coming up with $40 million for the Settlement Fund next year will be a struggle for the CNMI government.'

—Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota)

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The move to revoke the casino license of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is concerning as, according to Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), this means the government will struggle starting next year with paying the $40-million minimum annual payment to the NMI Settlement Fund.

The CNMI may be fortunate this year to have the American Rescue Plan Act money to subsidize government operations across the

See IT WILL on Page 4

Manglona

MARK FARMER

CHECKING OUT THE CHICKS
Customers inspect the newly-hatched chicks that were being sold last Saturday morning at the Sabalu Market in Garapan.

Gas nears $5 mark

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI continues to see an increase in fuel prices, with prices nearing the $5 mark, the highest the CNMI has seen in over a year.

Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead with the 7 cent increase late Monday evening

According to a Mobil gas attendant, Mobil raised it prices from $ 4.85 a gallon of their Extra fuel to $4.92. Mobil also raised its Supreme fuel from $5.30 to $5.37 while its diesel also went up from $5.06 to $5.18.

See GAS on Page 4

PSS is the first school system in region to move to green energy

- **12,500 solar panels will be installed**
- **Equivalent to planting trees on 25,500 acres, removing 16,200 cars off the road**

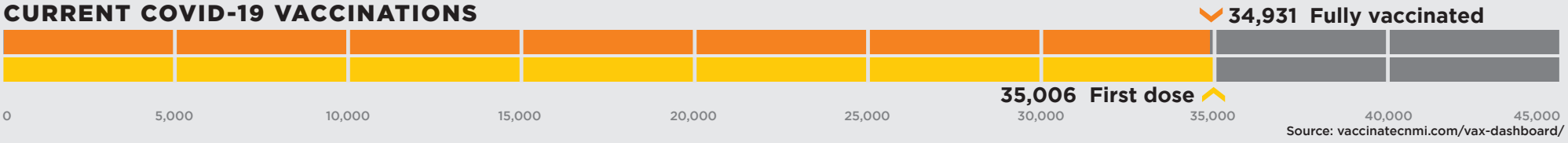
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will be installing solar energy systems in all its campuses across the CNMI, making PSS the first school system in the region to move to green energy.

Under the program, more than 12,500 solar panels will

See PSS on Page 4

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
The newest initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers is the MVP Campaign.
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BUSINESS
Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram suffer worldwide outage for several hours.
PAGE 11

LIFE & STYLE
Fifteen years and five films later, Daniel Craig's tenure as 007 is coming to a close.
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Local

LB request to replace air-conditioning unit at House OK'd

With ARPA monies, Legislative Bureau can now address critical capital projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig has approved the Legislative Bureau's request to replace the old air-conditioning unit that services the House of Representatives chamber and other offices.

Atalig said yesterday that he approved the bureau's request last week and that they are now getting the contract processed in the government's new financial management system.

The bureau had requested the Department of Finance to authorize the emergency procurement—estimated to cost $184,538—to replace the old 20-ton Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning unit servicing the House chamber as well as other offices., in order to prevent disrupting work at the House of Representatives.

One such disruption occurred last Sept. 10, when the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee was forced to cancel its scheduled hearing for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Gary P. Camacho due to the inoperable air-conditioning system at the chamber.

Legislative Bureau director Perry John P. Tenorio informed Atalig last Sept. 22 that the HVAC unit servicing the House chamber and lobby and the speaker and vice speaker offices broke down.

Tenorio said their HVAC service provider was able to reenergize the units but advised that it will be a temporary fix, given the age of the unit and the difficulty in finding replacement parts.

The director underscored the need to immediately replace this single HVAC unit, which is separate from a planned HVAC improvement for the entire building.

"We feel that in the interest of the public health, safety or welfare, this emergency procurement request is justified," Tenorio said.

The Legislative Bureau's HVAC service provider is Torres Refrigeration Inc.

Tenorio said Torres Refrigeration has maintained the Jesus Pangelinan Mafnas Memorial Building's (Legislature Building) HVAC system since 2017, and predates his appointment as Legislative Bureau director. He said Torres Refrigeration is very familiar with their HVAC system and is best suited to resolve their current emergency.

The director said the company provided them with a scope of work and quotation estimated at $184,538 to replace the current unit. He said it is estimated to take approximately 45 to 60 days to complete this project.

Tenorio said the Jesus Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill that is currently occupied by the Legislative Branch has been in existence since the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. He said the building has not changed over the years and needs significant improvements to meet safety standards.

Due to multiple fiscal year budgetary constraints resulting from the declining revenues, the Legislative Branch has deferred much needed improvements to its building, he added.

With the American Rescue Plan Act monies appropriated to the Legislative Bureau, they are now in the position to address critical capital projects, Tenorio said, adding that their priority are the procurement of a backup generator and the replacement of their antiquated HVAC systems.

The director said the procurement of the standby generator is already in process and that 95% of the design work has already been completed.

Regarding the HVAC system, Tenorio said the management intends to procure the services of a mechanical engineer to assess the current condition of the HVAC systems and design the replacement systems to meet the needs of the facility and to comply with the applicable Uniform Building Code.

This, he said, shall also include the design of all related electrical work required to power the new systems.

"Regretfully, we are still in the planning stages and anticipate that this process will take approximately six months, if not longer, to complete," Tenorio said.

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Guam's COVID death toll now at 204

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Guam's COVID-19-related death toll has now passed 200, with six new deaths reported between Sept. 29 and Oct. 3

The Joint Information Center in Guam reported Monday the island's 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, and 204th COVID-19-related deaths.

The 199th COVID-19-related death was an unvaccinated 52-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive for COVID-19 on Sept. 29, and was pronounced dead at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam on Sept. 29.

The 200th was an unvaccinated 27-year-old male with underlying health conditions. He tested positive on Sept. 30, and was pronounced dead at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Sept. 30.

The 201st was a vaccinated 62-year-old female with underlying health conditions who was a known positive case. She was pronounced dead at GMH on Sept. 30.

The 202nd was an unvaccinated 69-year-old male with underlying health conditions who was a known positive case. He was pronounced dead at the Guam Regional Medical City on Oct. 1.

The 203rd was an unvaccinated 52-year-old male with underlying health conditions who was a known positive case. He was pronounced dead at GRMC on Oct. 2.

The 204th was an unvaccinated 83-year-old male with underlying health conditions who was a known positive case. He was pronounced dead at GRMC on Oct. 3.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said that she, first gentleman Jeff Cook, and Guam Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio are praying for healing for those in this "most difficult time."

"The virus continues to bring upon our community loss and sadness. …While this battle with COVID-19 has felt never-ending, we will continue our aggressive efforts to combat this virus with all the tools and resources available to us," said Leon Guerrero.

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Saipan wholesaler found in violation of minimum wage and overtime rules

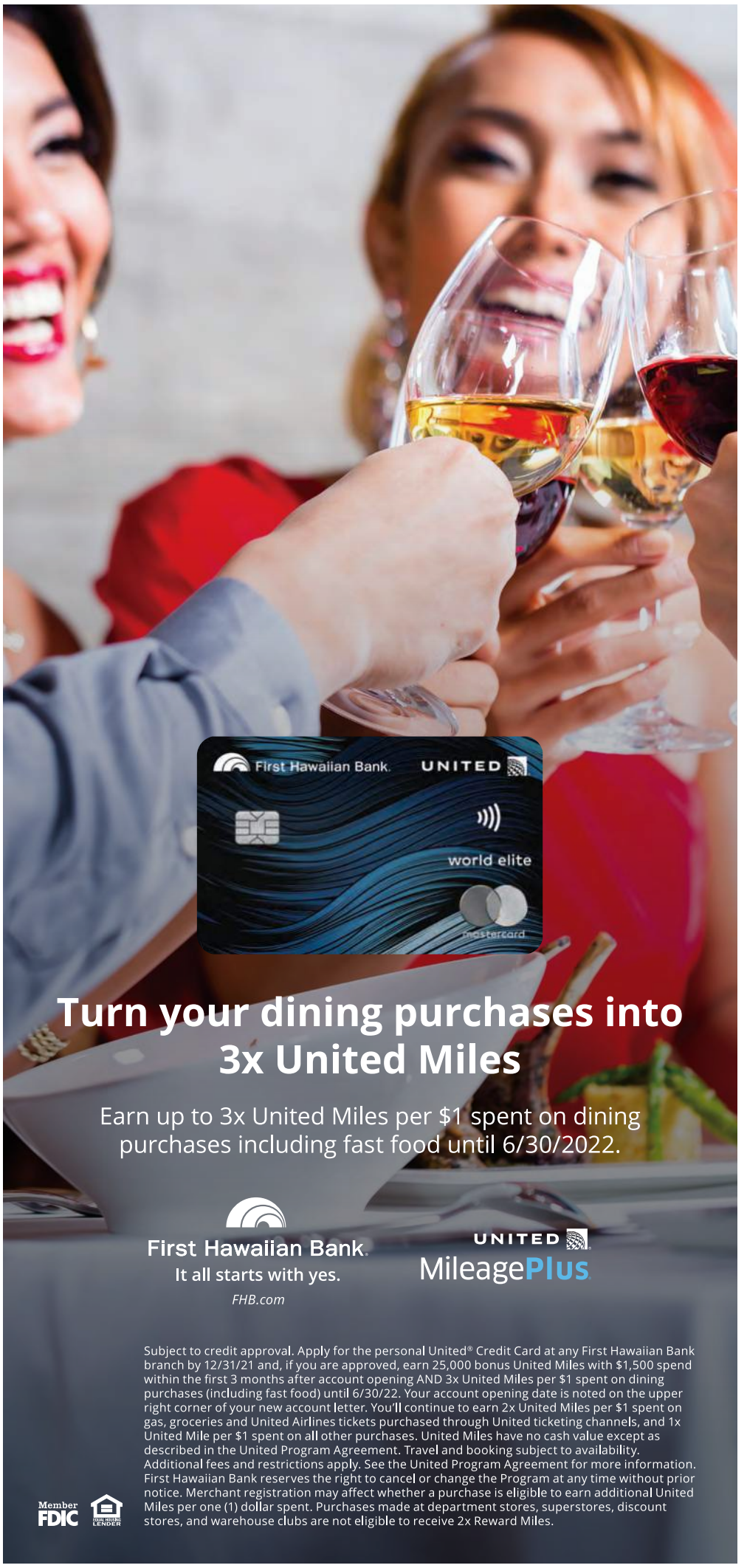
- **USDOL recovers $21K in back wages for workers**
- **Pearl River Wholesale also pays damages, penalties**

A Saipan dry food, spice and canned food wholesaler, Pearl River Wholesale, paid four workers a fixed, "off-the-books" cash salary that dropped their regular hourly wage below the required federal $7.25 minimum wage rate, and denied them overtime when they worked more than 40 hours in a workweek, a federal investigation has found.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division recovered $21,093 in back wages and liquidated damages for four workers at Pearl River Wholesale. The division also assessed the employer $2,324 in civil penalties for its reckless disregard for the Fair Labor Standards Act requirements.

"Employers who shortchange workers by denying them all of the wages they've legally earned will be held accountable by the U.S. Department of Labor," said Wage and Hour District director Terence Trotter in Honolulu, Hawaii. "Pearl River Wholesale attempted

See SAIPAN on Page 4


First Hawaiian Bank
UNITED
world elite
mastercard
Turn your dining purchases into 3x United Miles
Earn up to 3x United Miles per $1 spent on dining purchases including fast food until 6/30/2022.
First Hawaiian Bank
It all starts with yes.
FHB.com
UNITED MileagePlus
Subject to credit approval. Apply for the personal United® Credit Card at any First Hawaiian Bank branch by 12/31/21 and, if you are approved, earn 25,000 bonus United Miles with $1,500 spend within the first 3 months after account opening AND 3x United Miles per $1 spent on dining purchases (including fast food) until 6/30/22. Your account opening date is noted on the upper right corner of your new account letter. You'll continue to earn 2x United Miles per $1 spent on gas, groceries and United Airlines tickets purchased through United ticketing channels, and 1x United Mile per $1 spent on all other purchases. United Miles have no cash value except as described in the United Program Agreement. Travel and booking subject to availability. Additional fees and restrictions apply. See the United Program Agreement for more information. First Hawaiian Bank reserves the right to cancel or change the Program at any time without prior notice. Merchant registration may affect whether a purchase is eligible to earn additional United Miles per one (1) dollar spent. Purchases made at department stores, superstores, discount stores, and warehouse clubs are not eligible to receive 2x Reward Miles.
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$100K bail set for men accused of robbery

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $100,000 cash bail on two men who are accused of robbing a woman in San Antonio village.

Last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho issued a Rule-5, essentially a court-issued warrant, with a cash bail of $100,000 for the arrest of Raymond Palacios and George Taitano Lieto Jr. who are accused of robbing a woman along Laigan Street in San Antonio.

Lieto Jr.

Palacios

The pair has since been booked and detained at the Department of Corrections as they await their arraignment hearing.

According to a press release from DPS, police received a 911 call at around 1:28am last Wednesday, Sept. 29, reporting a suspicious vehicle driving around and parking in front of an apartment complex in the village of San Antonio.

At the apartment complex, police officers met with a female victim who stated that she had just been robbed of her brown Coach purse along Laigan Street.

The victim told police that the suspect who grabbed her purse was a tall male individual wearing dark clothing, with a white mask covering his face. The individual was allegedly later identified as Lieto. After snatching her purse, the victim said Lieto fled the scene on foot.

A witness told police that a dark-colored Mazda 3 sedan with the license plate AFM 561 picked up an individual matching the description before fleeing the scene.

A description of the vehicle and suspects were given to dispatch who relayed the information to all units. Minutes later, police spotted the vehicle on the main road. Police conducted a violator stop and advised the two occupants to step out of the vehicle. Upon securing the driver, Palacios, and the backseat passenger, Lieto, officers saw a brown Coach purse described earlier inside the vehicle.

Once the purse was positively identified as the victim's purse, both individuals were arrested and transported to the Department of Corrections.

On the same day, based on the information gathered, Camacho signed and issued the Rule-5 for Palacios and Lieto.

Torres vetoes budget bill's provision that allows CEC to hire 20 temps from political parties' list

» Governor approves bill's provision that transfers MRSO to CHCCC; prioritizes $9M from ARPA money for transition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres vetoed a provision in the budget bill for fiscal year 2022 that mandates the Commonwealth Election Commission to hire not more than 20 temporary employees for the general or special elections, requiring the personnel to be derived from a list provided by registered political parties.

Torres said this provision is unconstitutional and unenforceable when the process of hiring becomes politically motivated. Instead, the governor said, they must continue to seek qualified nonpartisan employees.

"For this reason, I must respectfully veto this provision," said Torres in a letter Thursday, notifying Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) of his signing of the budget bill into Public Law 22-08.

The CEC hiring provision was among the issues that Torres vetoed or line-item vetoed in the budget bill that he signed into law.

As for the approved parts of the budget bill, the governor noted a provision that transfers the administration of the Medical Referral Program to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. He said because CHCC has the expertise and is best-equipped to handle all healthcare-related issues pertaining to the Commonwealth, he fully supports this transfer.

Torres said his administration has prioritized $9 million under the American Rescue Plan Act to provide CHCC with the resources it needs to successfully transition back to the corporation the Medical Referral Program.

The Office of the Public Auditor has found through its audit that the lack of effective internal controls at the CNMI Medical Referral Services Office has led the entity to spend $27 million over its budget in fiscal years 18 to 19.

According to OPA's recently released audit report, the Office of the Attorney General determined that Executive Order 2013-09 has no legal authority to re-allocate MRSO from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to the Office of the Governor.

OPA conducted the audit on MRSO for fiscal years 2018 to 2020 to determine if effective internal controls are in place to ensure proper cash management, issue and enforce promissory notes, and ensure compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulation when determining patient and escort eligibility.

GAS

From Page 1

Although Shell Marianas has yet to raise its process as of press time, the two oil companies have traditionally mirrored each other's price fluctuations. If this still holds true, Shell is expected to raise its fuel prices today.

A 40-year-old motorist said that, with fuel prices constantly rising by the month, she fears that there will come a day when she has to choose whether to pay for fuel or to pay for groceries.

"Fuel shouldn't reach $5. With $5, you can buy ingredients to make a meal for your family. Now imagine how many gallons an average sedan would need to get by for a week and multiply that by $5. You could easily use up your allowance for food for the week on a full tank of gas if this trend continues," she said.

Another motorist, a 37-year-old male, said the CNMI has no other choice but to deal with fuel prices because personal vehicles are the only means of transportation.

"It's not like we have buses or subways that we can opt to go for. We have to depend on personal transportation or illegal taxi and even then, taxis have raised their prices too. We really have no other choice but to live with the price of fuel even if it's a struggle," he said.

His companion, a 16-year-old, chimed, in saying even walking could possibly be dangerous because of heat stroke.

"There's also the danger of heat stroke. Imagine, on a regular day, Saipan's temperature could easily go up to 90-plus degrees. What happens if you have to walk from one village to another in that heat; you could pass out," she said.

IT WILL

From Page 1

board. Manglona said, it appears the CNMI may be going back in the coming years to when it was plagued with lack of revenues.

"And I hope not to see the day when we have to cut 25% [of benefits] from the retirees," he said Friday at a Senate session.

The Settlement Fund is obligated to pay CNMI retirees 75% of their benefit payments. The government has the discretion but not obligation to cover the remaining 25% balance.

Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang has repeatedly praised the dedication of the Torres-Palacios administration to finding ways to continue to make the government's 25% contribution even in these challenging times.

Manglona noted Friday the recent filing by Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom of four complaints against IPI, each of them seeking the immediate revocation of IPI's exclusive Saipan casino license, for alleged unwillingness to comply with CCC's final order in four enforcement actions that were entered over five months ago.

"And this concerns us greatly because it would mean that next year and in future years, we're going to really struggle with the minimum annual payment for the [Settlement] Fund," he said. Manglona said everybody knows that the main intent of Public Law 18-56 in establishing the Saipan casino industry is so that the government can take care of the retirees as well as other financial difficulties of the CNMI.

The senator said he and Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) wrote Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) last July about possibly creating a special committee to look at Senate Bill 22-23 and Senate Joint Resolution 22-01 that they introduced last February and March, respectively.

Senate Bill 22-23 seeks to authorize the CCC to issue a second casino license in the event that IPI's exclusive casino license is revoked.

SJR 22-01 will request Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to instruct the CNMI representative on the Development Plan Advisory Committee to immediately provide a report to the Legislature on the casino projects.

Manglona asked the Senate to maybe come up with a position paper about the revocation matter because IPI acting chief executive officer Ray Yumul was quoted as saying that they're fine with removing the exclusivity clause but just don't revoke their license. He said Yumul further stated that they continue to discuss alternative solutions with the administration and the Legislature.

"So I don't know what discussions are taking place with the Legislature," the senator said.

Manglona said it's the reason why the Senate should possibly call for an oversight or public hearing on their two legislations, and hear comments from the community as to how they can best address the IPI issue and the casino industry.

He said some of the issues that they would like IPI and CCC to discuss with the Senate are concerns about IPI's growing debts, DPAC fees, CCC annual regulatory fee, community benefit fund, and annual casino license fee.

The senator said IPI is now on its second year of failing to pay the annual regulatory fee and annual casino license fee.

He said the Senate should know what is IPI's plan of action and all labor enforcement issues.

Mainly, Manglona said, they want to talk about establishing a strong culture of compliance at IPI and the casino exclusivity provision.

The senator reiterated a request with the Senate leadership for a committee—such as the Fiscal Affairs Committee or the Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Programs or possibly creating a Committee on Gaming—so that "they can be ahead of the ball and be ready."

Last February, Hofschneider disclosed that IPI paid a total of $204.80 million in taxes, license, and fees from 2015 to 2018, and that it was IPI's contributions that saved the CNMI's Retirement Fund from collapsing.

PSS

From Page 1

be installed throughout the school system to produce 4.1 megawatts of electricity.

According to acting Education commissioner Eric M. Magofna, this is equivalent to planting trees on 25,500 acres, removing 16,200 cars of the road, and not driving 205 million miles.

Magofna informed Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) last Sept. 28 that they will be launching the program tomorrow, Thursday, at Marianas High School in front of Building J.

"It has been a long time coming and we are excited to begin our journey toward green energy technology—a cleaner choice of energy," said Magofna, adding that this will decrease the CNMI's carbon footprint forever.

Under this initiative, the CNMI government or PSS will have "absolutely zero" capital investment for solar equipment or installation of the solar energy systems, Magofna said in his letter to Hofschneider.

Micronesian Renewable Energy is responsible for the maintenance of the solar energy systems, as well as any repairs and replacements should any of the systems be damaged during a typhoon.

Magofna said these systems are 100% fully insured and at the expense of Micronesian Renewable Energy.

The acting commissioner said PSS will incur energy savings amounting to more than $1 million per year.

He said the systems will be used as educational tools for PSS students as high school students will also have an opportunity to enter an apprenticeship program to learn the electrical and solar energy trade.

Magofna said the initiative will help the CNMI's economy as there will be an increase in private sector jobs.

He said Micronesia Renewable Energy is committed to only hiring a workforce that calls the CNMI home.

Magofna said this skilled workforce will not only be responsible for constructing each solar energy system, but will also be tasked to maintain these systems for the duration of the agreement.

SAIPAN

From Page 3

to exploit workers by making side agreements to skirt the law and cheat their competitors by paying substandard wages. In the end, they have paid not only the wages due, but thousands of dollars in penalties for their willful disregard of the law."

For more information about the FLSA and other laws enforced by the division, contact its toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). ***(PR)***

GCEA launches Marianas Village Pride Campaign

» Students, residents to help make their villages better places to live through beautification efforts

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers launched its newest initiative yesterday, the Marianas Village Pride Campaign or MVP, to improve life in the Marianas by inspiring students and residents to show pride in where they live by taking part in fun beautification activities.

The campaign reinforces the idea that residents are valuable participants in caring for their villages. Every person can contribute to making villages safer, cleaner, and better places to live. In classrooms, the campaign provides teachers with tools to spark conversations with students about environmental responsibility, sustainability, and the key role each student can play in the future of the Marianas.

"We are interested in highlighting what makes each village unique and beautiful and preserving that for the future," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who co-chairs the GCEA. "This campaign brings together the best of the Marianas and invites every resident to be a part of this shared vision for improving the overall quality of life for all."

GCEA recently celebrated the first anniversary of the success of its Public Private Partnership, in which PPP partners have committed to transforming public facilities, parks, and tourism sites. "We wanted to go deeper into the heart of the islands and place more emphasis on beautifying our villages," said Torres.

GCEA is collaborating closely with the Mayors of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and the Public School System to promote the campaign in all schools and villages.

"Village pride entails being proud of where you're from and showing that pride through beautifying our homes, neighborhoods, streets, schools, community centers, parks, and attractions for the benefit of all residents," said Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang. "The MVP Campaign highlights the cooperation and assistance that we need to create a better community for everyone. I encourage all members of our community to support the MVP Campaign and take pride and ownership in transforming our villages."

The multi-faceted community-building campaign offers educational, artistic, and beautification activities for students and invites groups and organizations to join Marianas-wide beautification efforts to include the following:

Adopt-A-Median Program

As an extension to GCEA's community-supported PPP program, the Adopt-A-Median program invites schools, residents, organizations, and businesses to help make streets, sidewalks, and crosswalks in their villages safer for pedestrians and motorists by painting them for better visibility. GCEA will provide the supplies, and most projects can be completed within an afternoon or weekend. Students, you will earn service hours for their participation. Sign up at cnmieconomy.com.

MVP Village Flag Art Contest

Middle and high school students throughout the Marianas are invited to use their artistic talents to inspire the design of their villages' flags! This contest asks students to illustrate what makes their villages special, unique, and wonderful places to live. The contest's criteria are posted on the MVP webpage. The contest launched on Oct. 5 and the deadline to submit the artwork is on Oct. 26.

MVP Lessons and Coloring Pages

Elementary school students can join the conversations about what it means to have village pride, caring for the environment, being a good neighbor, and making their villages better places to live. Lessons and coloring pages are available for download on GCEA's website—cnmieconomy.com.

MVP Bus Stop Beautification Contest

All groups, organizations, and businesses are encouraged to adopt a bus stop in their villages to compete for prizes! Students earn service hours for their participation. The campaign aims to beautify more than 20 bus stops on Saipan, four on Rota, and two to three on Tinian. GCEA will provide the supplies. Register online by Nov. 1. The contest begins on Nov. 12.

MVP Christmas Decorating Contest

School groups, residents, organizations, and businesses are invited to make the Marianas festive and beautiful this holiday season by cleaning, beautifying, and decorating their homes, schools, community centers or basketball courts, village entrances, and businesses. Sign up online to participate by Nov. 1. The contest begins on Nov. 29.

High school students can earn service hours for their participation in beautification activities and contests. At the end of the campaign period, schools will earn points based on students' participation and have the chance to win cash prizes.

Torres said, "We thank PSS, teachers, and parents for partnering with us to help students understand the concept of village pride. We believe they are never too young to learn how they can take care of the environment, be good neighbors, and live well."

GCEA invites the community to engage, like, and share its MVP content on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmieconomy) and to tag their MVP photos to be featured on GCEA's platforms (#BeAnMVP, #MarianasVillagePride, and #TogetherWeCanMarianas). ***(PR)***

IPI faces possible contempt in sexual harassment case

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC faces possible contempt for failing to make the necessary court-approved payments to claimants in a sexual harassment case.

In a motion for contempt against IPI, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to find IPI in contempt for failing to comply with provisions of a court-approved consent decree, specifically the provision to pay monetary relief to claimants in a sexual harassment case.

According to EEOC representative Eric Yau, it is beyond doubt that IPI violated a specific and definite order of the court when it failed to fully comply with its obligations concerning monetary relief outlined in the decree. "Specifically, pursuant to Section VIII of the decree, Imperial Pacific was obligated to pay a total of $105,000 to claimants. To date, defendants have only paid $60,000, and have been delinquent with the monthly payment of $15,000 for August and September," Yau stated.

In addition, Yau said IPI has yet to provide EEOC with the fully recorded secured instrument for the Flame Tree Terrace, as required under the decree.

"Given the serious nature of the violations in this matter, EEOC respectfully requests that the court grant the EEOC's motion for contempt," he said.

Aside from being held in contempt, Yau requested the court also require IPI to wire the remaining $45,000, plus applicable penalty and interest, to the claimants within 15 days; pay any attorney fees or other fees that the EEOC incurred in bringing this motion; and to pay any other monetary and/or non-monetary sanction as determined appropriate by the court.

According to court documents, EEOC sued IPI for sexual harassment and unfair employment practices on Sept. 24, 2019, on behalf of a former VIP hostess, and other similarly aggrieved female employees.

EEOC named as defendants IPI, Best Sunshine International, and IPI Holdings Limited and unnamed individuals. EEOC alleged that IPI subjected the claimants to unwelcome physical and verbal sexual harassment by male patrons. IPI denied all the allegations and asked the court to dismiss the complaint with prejudice.

In April 2021, IPI agreed to settle the claims and resolve the lawsuit. IPI and EEOC entered into a consent decree that Chief Judge Ramona Manglona approved on April 27, 2021. The consent decree was signed by IPI chief executive officer Ray Yumul, attorney Stephen Nutting, who represented IPI in the lawsuit, and EEOC attorney Anna Y. Park.

According to the consent decree, IPI secured a settlement amounting to 16 parcels of its Flame Tree Terrace apartments in As Mahetog as collateral. However, instead of complying fully with the various obligations of the decree, the defendants have, to date, only made the first three monthly monetary payments and have been delinquent in making the August and September payments.

Yau said the defendants' counsel only circulated a draft mortgage of the Flame Tree Terrace to the EEOC recently when the fully recorded secured instrument with respect to the Flame Tree Terrace, which is to be used as a collateral, should have been provided to the EEOC within 20 days of the decree.

Yau said he tried to contact IPI's attorney on numerous occasions, both in writing and telephonically, to resolve the continued non-compliance without the court's intervention, to no avail.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-CCP-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 20, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE – TINIAN"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Antonio Napaial
P.O. Box 504218
Saipan, MP 96950
670-788-6248

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Adoption of: X.Y.N. Minor Child
By: Antonio B. Napaial Petitioner

FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0348

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 1, 2021 at 9:00am in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.
Dated this 5th day of October, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FAMILY SERVICES CASE MANAGER

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021 AT 4:00 PM

BAKERY MANAGER

Function of Job:
The Bakery Manager will be responsible for a bakery operation, to include the production of quality baked goods according to stringent deadlines, based on a precise knowledge of latest baking technology and careful control of available resources. The Bakery Manager will supervise and coordinate the activity of staff in bakeries and perform tasks such as budgeting, ordering supplies, recruiting and training employees, implementing safety measures, and promoting the bakery to potential clients.

Characteristic Duties and Responsibilities:
1. Plan, schedule and supervise bakery production, shipping and cleaning activities to highest safety and sanitation standards.
2. Supervise, evaluate, train and schedule work of bakery staff.
3. Order and arrange for correct ingredients, supplies and equipment using computerized system.
4. Be responsible for consolidation of product orders from users.
5. Assure the proper use and care by staff of a large variety of highly specialized production equipment.
6. Appraise staff performance and carry out the necessary disciplinary measures to address poor performance.
7. Develop, maintain and update recipe files through computerized processes.
8. Be responsible for inventorying of stock.
9. Assist in developing and implementing merchandising plans for new cash operations, as required.
10. Assist bakers with production of new products or when schedule falls behind.
11. Perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Acceptable Qualifications:
1. High school graduation or GED with some technical training and at least three (3) years of related experience in commercial baking of a variety of products, two (2) of which should be in a supervisory capacity.
2. Food Handler Certification.
3. Specialized technical knowledge of baking fundamentals.
4. Computer skills in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, and Outlook.
5. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

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Man gets probation for destruction of government property

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has sentenced a man to probation after he pleaded guilty to destruction of government property.

During a sentencing hearing last Friday, Chief Judge Ramona Manglona sentenced Jonathan Natura, a Philippine national, to six months of probation on the grounds of willful depredation of government property.

Natura, who admitted to destroying the cable and internet connection of the Homeland Security Investigations' office on Saipan in May 2020, must also pay a fine of $200 plus a special assessment fee of $25 before the end of his probation period.

In the sentencing memorandum filed by Natura's lawyer, Robert Torres, he said Natura deserves to serve a probation sentence of less than or up to one year because of his honesty.

After splicing the internet and cable line that provided service to the Department of Homeland Security office, Natura immediately admitted that he was responsible when Docomo Pacific came to check the line the following morning.

"Natura, in the morning when Docomo technicians came to service the line, admitted immediately that he had spliced the line. It is apparent that Natura's character and his radical honesty have merited substantial consideration in his favor. He stated the truth, he stood up, and did so despite the debilitating shame and embarrassment that accompanies the admission," Torres said.

"Natura is a good man who committed an unnecessary act with tampering and the depredation of the property of the United States," Torres added.

According to court documents, back in May of this year, Natura pleaded guilty to one count of willful depredation of government property.

House OKs bill to require expiration of car insurance, vehicle registration to coincide

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed Friday a bill that will require that both a vehicle's vehicle liability insurance and vehicle's registration would expire at the same time.

Sixteen representatives voted "yes" to pass House Bill 22-3, while Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) abstained. Reps. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) and Richard T. Tudela (D-Saipan) were absent but excused from the session.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Before voting, Babauta, who chairs the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, said if nobody wants to do their motor vehicle liability insurance and vehicle registration at the same time, there's going to be no revenue coming in. Babauta said the bill's author, Rep. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), has repeatedly stated that this is a revenue generating bill, but she hopes that next time that he can back it up with cost-benefit analysis for the committee to consider.

Flores reiterated that it will be a generating-revenue bill. He said if the applicant has two or more vehicles, the applicant has the option to allow for the registration of the vehicles to expire on the same month as the vehicle intended for registration/re-registration at a fee of $25 per vehicle.

"That's when the generating [revenue] comes in," said Flores.

He also pointed out that he introduced the bill last February and that it was "handcuffed" before the JGO for more than 90 days, in response to Babauta's claim that her committee never had the opportunity to hear the concerns of insurance companies and that insurance companies were never even informed by the committee about this bill.

Flores pointed out that putting the month together for registration and expiration of a motor vehicle liability insurance won't incur additional charges.

Flores also introduced the same bill before the 21st Legislature.

In many cases, the expiration of the vehicle registration is dissimilar to the expiration of the motor vehicle liability insurance.

Flores believes that by mirroring the two expirations of such necessary requirements in operating a vehicle, all motorists will be protected and covered from any unforeseeable circumstances that may cause serious financial and/or physical strains.

He said many motorists in the CNMI have two or more vehicles.

The lawmaker said the bill seeks to provide options to the motorists and allow for them to choose whether they are in favor of paying a one-time fee and changing the renewal registration dates on their other vehicles.

Before the voting, Northern Marianas Insurance Association president Gol Corpuz spoke at the session in favor of the bill.

'Speak out and know that people are listening'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Welcome to the Proclamation Signing Ceremony in recognition of
Domestic Violence
Awareness Month
Monday, October 4, 2021
Royal Taga Hall, Saipan World Resort
Susupe, Saipan
2021 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Theme:
Healing Forward

Jennifer Taman– who is the co-founder and project director of nonprofit organization Women of Destiny and a domestic abuse survivor herself–gives inspirational remarks during this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom last Monday.
JOSHUA SANTOS

Jennifer Taman—who is co-founder and project director of nonprofit organization Women of Destiny and is a domestic abuse survivor herself—cited in harrowing detail her personal example of living through and surviving domestic abuse and how she rose above it all to be a living example of "Healing Forward," the theme of Domestic Violence Awareness Month this year.

Taman, who was the inspirational speaker in Monday's Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom, detailed the extent of her physical, mental, and verbal abuse and periods of considering suicide.

Taman shared that she ended an eight-year abusive relationship around a year-and-a-half ago. During this relationship, Taman experienced extreme physical, mental, and verbal abuse. "I will not go in detail of how, when, why, and what happened to me during those eight years, but this much I will say: Throughout the course of that relationship, I was…slapped, punched, kicked, my hair pulled, my face slammed on the kitchen table, and choked to the point I almost died," said Taman. "In addition to that, I was constantly called fat, ugly, stupid, dumb, a loser, good for nothing, a nobody, a piece of s___t, worthless, useless, and all sorts of insults you can think of. I had no close friends to talk to or vent to, [and] I was ashamed to tell anyone what was happening to me."

Taman lost all contact with her family, felt extremely isolated, and frequently contemplated suicide. She said were it not for her daughter and her dogs, "I would have probably been dead by now."

Taman said that she wanted to leave her abuser many times before, but her abuser always made excuses. "Every time I tried to leave him, I was always promised [a] better tomorrow, he was always sorry, and he always promised that everything will change. But nothing changed. I was still miserable," she said.

The relationship came to a point where Taman saw her abuser doing something she deeply disagreed with and decided that it was now time to end the relationship and seek help. By this point, Taman started to learn how to heal, how to love herself, and how to not hate herself for going through what she did. "I understood that healing wouldn't be easy, nor will it [happen] overnight, but I was determined to mend my damaged heart and become a better version of myself," she said.

To begin her healing, Taman first turned to prayer and strengthened her relationship with God. Then, Taman signed up for counseling through Karidat Social Services, scheduled an appointment with a psychiatrist at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., began opening up to her family about the abuse she experienced, made more friends, ate healthily, took care of herself, and did many outdoor activities such as walking her dogs and going to the beach.

Most importantly, Taman made a point to celebrate every milestone of independence that she achieved, such as getting her own bank account, ID, apartment, and receiving a Community Grant through the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Taman hopes that those currently suffering from domestic abuse, those needing healing, and those who are in the process of healing take solace in her words, and that she can serve as a reminder that healing comes from within.

"Know that you are not alone, and that there's a light at the end of the tunnel, and that you are loved. Speak out, and know that people are listening. Believe in your strength. You are braver and stronger than you think. Forgive those that have harmed you, and forgive yourself. You deserve to be the happiest person in the world, and [deserve to] be the best version of you. You are special, unique, and beautiful. You are God's precious gift, so hold your head up high and remember that healing starts from within," said Taman.

OVA's Iakopo pushes expansion of homestead act for veterans

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Stanley T. Iakopo, executive officer of the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, is seeking to convince the Legislature to amend the "Military Service Homestead Act of 2004" so that disabled veterans of Northern Marianas descent will be given first priority in the homestead process, and not be waitlisted.

Iakopo pointed out that, after spending many years off-island serving in the military, disabled NMD veterans return to the CNMI with no home and no land. Iakopo believes this situation can be mitigated by amending Public Law 14-21, or the "Military Service Homestead Act of 2004."

"Many of our NMD veterans have been gone for many years protecting our freedom, but when they return home they find themselves in a predicament with no home and no land. …They end up staying with families or renting, as this can take a long period of time. The transition from military service to civilian life can be challenging for many veterans and their families, especially those returning home," said Iakopo in an email message last Monday.

To qualify for his proposed first priority in the homestead process, Iakopo proposes that disabled NMD veterans must have been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces "as indicated by the U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 or other official military discharge papers" and that they must be certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a "service-connected disability with a disability rating of 70% or higher."

"It is only appropriate that we honor our Northern Marianas descent disabled veterans who sacrificed so much through their service, [and] the least we could do for them is to make their lives easier by amending Public Law 14-21 to show our sincere appreciation," Iakopo added.

According to a version of Public Law 14-21 found online, a section of it reads, "Homestead permits of homesteaders serving in the United States Armed Forces shall not be revoked while the homesteader is on active duty".

The homestead program is handled in the CNMI by the rough the Department of Public Lands' Homestead Division.

175 headsets given to PSS Special Education students

The Public School System's Special Education Program and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Family to Family Health Information Center have partnered to improve access to online therapy services by distributing 175 new headsets to children with special health care needs enrolled in the school district.

The headsets were made available through funding awarded to CHCC from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

PSS

From left to right, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Maternal, Infant, Child and Adolescent Health Child Health coordinator Danielle YJ Su, PSS-Special Education director Donna Flores, PSS-SPED program manager Nora Fujihira, PSS-SPED online coordinator Lucille Deleon Guerrero, and CHCC MICAH Family Support specialist Bridget Lizama pose with the donated headsets.

The F2F HIC operates under the CHCC's Maternal, Infant, Child and Adolescent Health Programs.

"Our partnership with our Public School System is very valuable. We have an existing interagency agreement through CHCC…[and through this partnership] we believe that our children with special health care needs are receiving the needed specialty services through the Special Education Program and we are here to support and collaborate," said CHCC MICAH Child Health coordinator Danielle YJ Su.

"These headsets will directly benefit our students receiving online therapy services for children with special health care needs and the professionals who serve them," Su added.

"It's very timely for us here, especially in servicing the children in our program, particularly those receiving online therapy services since the transition into remote instruction last year," said PSS-SPED Program director Donna Flores.

This year, the school district's Special Education Program is providing online therapy and support services to over 400 children with special needs. These online services provided particularly include speech pathology and occupational therapy. The new headsets will be distributed throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota schools.

Through an ongoing collaboration, children identified by CHCC who have special health care needs or disability are referred to the PSS Early Intervention Program or Special Education Program for services. The headsets provided to children enrolled in PSS SPED services will improve access to online services and ultimately work to ensure improved health outcomes for this vulnerable population.

"We have a great partnership with CHCC MICAH program and all of our interagency partners we call the Disability Network Partners," Flores said.

She also underscored the importance of PSS-SPED's ongoing partnership through the DNP: "This partnership is never ending. Our purpose is to advocate for all of our kids and provide them the support that they need to be able to access and benefit from the same education and opportunities that all of their non-disabled peers are afforded with, and as they transition into adulthood." ***(PR)***

Bench trial set for man who allegedly shattered window of CPA cop car

The Superior Court has scheduled a bench trial for a man accused of shattering a Commonwealth Ports Authority police officer's vehicle window.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho has scheduled the bench trial of Shanguo Zhang, 43, for Oct. 18 at 10am.

On top of the bench trial, Camacho also scheduled a probation revocation hearing for Zhang's previous case, where he pleaded guilty to spray painting a police K-9 vehicle parked at the Department of Public Safety central office.

According to court documents, Zhang, a Chinese citizen, is a habitual offender with most of his cases involving vandalism and disturbing the peace.

Zhang is one of those individuals who hold a daily protest against the Chinese Communist Party at the Civic Center across the judicial building in Susupe.

Back on June 15, Zhang, allegedly shattered with a rock the glass window of a CPA Ports Police car.

Back in March, Camacho sentenced Zhang to six months in prison, with the first 15 days to be served day for day without the possibility of parole, early release, weekend release or other similar programs after the defendant pleaded guilty to tampering with a vehicle.

Camacho gave Zhang 12 days' credit for time served, but the defendant was also placed on a six-month probation after serving his sentence.

In July 2020, Zhang was arrested for criminal mischief and disturbing the peace after damaging the glass doors at the governor's office. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

Oct. 3-9 is National 4-H Week

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios have proclaimed Oct. 3 to 9, 2021, as National 4-H Week during a proclamation signing at the Northern Marianas College last Monday. Throughout the week, 4-H will highlight the hard work of the organization's many youth members in the CNMI and recognize their dedication to making a positive impact on those around them.

During the proclamation, it was learned that 4-H is the United States' "largest youth developmental organization, supporting nearly six million youth across the country." It was founded in the CNMI in the 1950s.

It was also learned that through 4-H, members participate in planting various crops., including native, medicinal, and edible plants, helping 4-H members develop life skills through various self-esteem, goal-setting, and leadership programs.

4-H also teaches the youth entrepreneurial and fiscal management skills through the Farm Services Agency youth loan program, and establishes youth sports programs to promote different forms of activity in an effort to combat non-communicable disease.

The proclamation states that the organization was able to help over 20,000 youth members in the CNMI become "confident, independent, resilient, and compassionate leaders."

In signing the proclamation, Torres encouraged the community to join in recognizing the impact that 4-H has had on the youth. "We encourage all of our citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact they have made and continue to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime," said Torres.

According to its official website, 4-H is delivered by a "community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn-by-doing through hands-on projects in important areas of health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement." 4-H's network consists of almost 500,000 volunteers and 3,500 professionals nationwide that is dedicated to providing "caring and supportive mentoring to all 4-H'ers."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios join 4-H Marianas Youth Council members, 4-H Marianas Saipan, Tinian, and Rota members, Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services interim dean Patricia Coleman, NMC CREES, and members of the community to proclaim Oct. 3-9, 2021, as National 4-H Week in the CNMI.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

YouTube's ban of anti-vax lies isn't censorship, it's responsible behavior

YouTube recently announced it will ban content that spreads misinformation regarding not just the coronavirus vaccines but vaccination science in general. It's an acknowledgment that today's misplaced conservative resistance to the coronavirus vaccines both feeds and is fed by the broader anti-vaccination movement that was around well before the pandemic.

YouTube and other social media giants must stand up to the inevitable but incorrect cries of censorship from the right and stick with this policy. Individual Americans have a constitutional right to lie—that's the price of free speech—but private companies aren't obligated to amplify or provide a platform for those lies.

Anti-vaccination misinformation has been around for years, promoted mainly by people who either don't understand or don't trust medical science, and who have short historical memories of just how savagely various forms of illness attacked communities prior to the availability of vaccines. False claims that some vaccines cause autism in children have exposed kids to real risk because their parents have embraced that misinformation. A year before the current pandemic, Washington state was wracked by a series of measles outbreaks caused by people who refused to have their kids vaccinated.

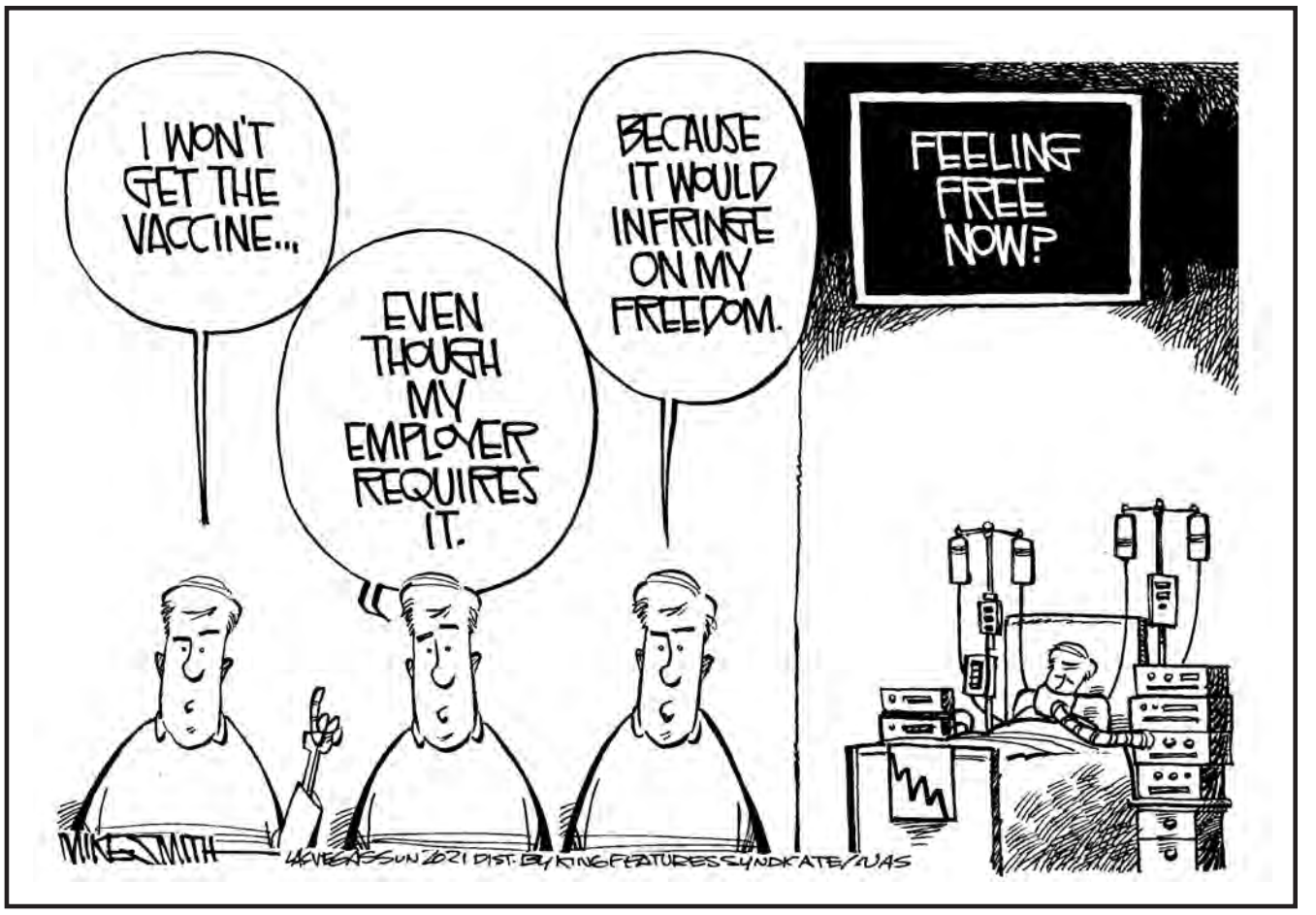
Still, the pre-pandemic anti-vaccination movement was a relatively limited phenomenon. The current resistance to coronavirus vaccines is much larger and more political, essentially engulfing much of the Republican Party. But the results are the same: People who refuse vaccination are getting sick and are endangering those who for medical reasons can't be vaccinated. Whether they're making that decision out of misplaced distrust of science or as a culture war rallying cry, it's irresponsible and selfish.

YouTube, Facebook and other social media behemoths cracked down on coronavirus misinformation early in the pandemic but didn't initially address anti-vaccination lies in general. While it's true these are two somewhat separate phenomena, common sense dictates that the broader anti-vaccination movement is likely to win new adherents as the political right promotes doubts about the coronavirus vaccines.

Already, some Republican officials in places like Florida and Tennessee have broadened their resistance rhetoric to encompass not just coronavirus vaccine mandates but long-standing school vaccination mandates for childhood diseases. Most Americans have long supported those school mandates, but the current political conversation has the potential to change that.

YouTube's move to ban content that spreads false claims about the supposed dangers of vaccination in general fol-

See YOUTUBE'S on Next Page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Warning: Jan. 6 was not a one-time event

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

Nine months ago, when followers of President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol to halt the election of Joe Biden, the insurrection appeared to be the work of an extremist fringe led by right-wing militias and pro-Trump zealots.

But election denialism, the movement that spawned the uprising, has turned out to be much larger, more durable and every bit as worrisome as the violence of Jan. 6.

Stoked relentlessly by Trump, the belief that Biden stole the election has become a tenet of faith for most Republican voters.

In fact, Biden won the election decisively—whether measured by the popular vote (where his margin was a healthy 7 million) or by electoral votes (where he won by the same majority Trump did four years before). It was not a close election.

Since Election Day, more evidence has proved that Trump's claims of fraud are groundless. The former president's lawyers filed 65 lawsuits to challenge the results and lost 64. (The single win wasn't about fraud; it was a suit to stop Pennsylvania from letting voters correct errors on mail-in ballots.)

Last month, a shambolic GOP "audit" of votes in Arizona's largest county found that Biden actually won more votes than had initially been counted.

None of that has stopped Trump from continuing to proclaim his spurious gospel of fraud.

"We won on the Arizona forensic audit yesterday at a level that you wouldn't believe," he told supporters in Georgia. "[Biden] didn't win in Arizona; he lost."

Biden won Arizona by more than 10,000 votes.

Unfortunately, the former president's disinformation campaign is succeeding—at least among the voters and donors he will need if he runs again.

And it's making violence around future elections more likely.

A CNN poll last month found that 78% of Republicans say Biden lost the election. Almost 6 in 10 said "believing that Donald Trump won the 2020 election" is an important part of being Republican—right up there with low taxes and limited government.

Another survey, the Economist/YouGov poll, found that election denialism has been growing. In January, only 33% of Republicans said Biden won the presidency "legitimately"; last month, it was down to 26%.

It's tempting to consider this merely more evidence of what psychologists call "motivated reasoning," the tendency to believe only those facts (in this case, imaginary facts) that conform with your partisan views.

But it's more dangerous than that. It means a Jan. 6-style insurgency could happen again.

"About 65 million Americans believe that Joe Biden stole the election and is an illegitimate president," Robert A. Pape, a terrorism expert at the University of Chicago, told me last week. "That's a lot of people."

Of those 65 million, he added, about 21 million believe violence is justified to restore Trump to the presidency, based on polling conducted by Pape's Chicago Project on Security and Threats. That number, he said, "is the pool of potential recruits" for a future insurrection.

"We know that only a small fraction of people who say they are willing to engage in violence will ultimately do so," he added. "So the size of the pool is important.

"Think about this as if it were a wildfire. Wildfires are often set off by lightning strikes, but there will always be lightning. The important question is how much dry wood is on the ground when it strikes. The tinder is more important than the match."

In other words, the growing pool of election denialists is like a thickening layer of dry wood on a forest floor.

One more finding from Pape's research: Most of the rioters arrested after the Jan. 6 insurrection aren't militia members or marginal cranks.

"More than half are business owners, executives or white-collar professionals—doctors, lawyers, accountants," he said. "Only 14% are members of militia groups, which means almost 90% are not. This is more a mainstream set of people than a fringe."

If Republicans lose any close congressional elections in 2022, or if Trump or any other GOP candidate loses the presidential race in 2024, a large pool of voters is primed to believe the only explanation must be fraud—and some are willing to resort to violence to reverse the result.

Americans once saw Election Day as an occasion that bound the nation together, the culmination of a peaceful competition that ended with a graceful concession speech from the loser—an essential declaration of faith in the democratic system.

Trump still hasn't conceded the 2020 race.

Thanks to him and his abettors, our next few elections will be dangerous opportunities for turmoil, instability—even, perhaps, another insurrection. It may not come in the same shape as Jan. 6; the Capitol Police may be better prepared next time. But Trump's disinformation campaign isn't a victimless crime. It has already made post-election violence more likely.

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US is fast approaching a point of no return

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.the United States.

We Americans are 330,000,000 people trying to find a way to travel together to the same place. Or so we like to think.

In reality our current divisions indicate that we are headed toward different destinations. The metaphor that properly describes the dilemma in front of us is elusive. A crossroads? A fork in the road? A perilous trek along a knife-edged ridge with a disastrous fall on either side? Chutes and Ladders?

However we describe the journey, it's clear that we're not going to the same place. And the point of no return is closer than we think. In fact, we could reach the decision point in weeks, in connection with the fate of the Democrats' "Build Back Better" plan.

Or maybe we have until the midterm elections next year. But, certainly, by no later than the presidential election of 2024 we're going to have to decide who we are and where we're going.

Extending the metaphor, let's call one of the destinations Trumptown. Overly dramatic? Maybe. But it's dangerously naïve to underestimate the remarkable endurance of the former president, as well as the grip he maintains on the Republican Party.

The Republicans already have a built-in head start on the road to Trumptown. They're able to use simple battle cries (Low taxes! Small government! Personal freedom!) to good advantage over Democrats, who can never run on high taxes, big government and restricted liberty.

Further, Republicans have exploited the advantages that our system provides to the political minority: the filibuster, the Electoral College, the gerrymander and disproportionate representation in the Senate.

Advantages such as these should work both ways, but they can easily swing the pendulum so far in one direction that it can never swing back.

And then there's Donald Trump. The blind devotion of his disciples should concern us as much as his politics. Polls find that as much as 70% of Republicans believe—erroneously—that the 2020 election was stolen, and the figure appears to be growing.

How deranged is this position? The day after the Arizona audit Trump said that Biden "didn't win in Arizona. He lost in Arizona based on the forensic audit." But the audit—mounted by Republicans for the predetermined purpose of proving the election in Maricopa County was rigged against Trump—showed just the opposite.

And yet Trump is clearly planning to run in 2024, and he's likely to win the Republican nomination. But Trumptown is a fantasyland. Are you sure you want to go there?

I'd prefer Bidenville. But getting there depends heavily on the passage of some version of his $3.5 trillion plan to provide an array of civilized benefits that most Americans want, including a significant percentage of Republicans.

These are things such as lower prescription drug prices, child tax credits, more affordable college and, at long last, measures that pay attention to climate change. These are not the features of some socialist utopia; they're merely some of the privileges that advanced countries have been awarding themselves for years. It's a chance for us to catch up.

But Biden's plan has two things working against it. First, Republicans harbor a deep reluctance to allow the Democrats anything that looks like a win.

And, second, the cost. Republicans never tire of reminding us of the $3.5 trillion price tag.

Still, perspective is called for: Over a decade, the price tag amounts to $350 billion per year. That's still a lot of money, but it's less than half of what we spend annually on defense.

We spend $100 billion per year on our pets. We spend $62 billion on cosmetics. We spend somewhere between $200 billion and $300 billion on stress-related illnesses. I'm not suggesting we get rid of our dogs and cats, but I wonder if the benefits of Biden's plan could help us get rid of some of our stress.

In any case, two starkly different visions of our future are currently in conflict. By no later than 2024, we'll have chosen. May we choose wisely; there will be no turning back.

'It takes a village to raise a child.' Why have we abandoned that truth?

By JERALD MCNAIR
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

What happened to "It takes a village to raise a child"?

It's an African proverb that used to be quoted routinely. When we hear the phrase now, it doesn't elicit the same emotion.

There used to be a time when neighbors freely talked with one another, where trust, mutual respect and a sense of community existed. Kids knew that if they misbehaved on the block, or around the neighborhood, other adults could not only weigh in but also freely correct them. It was a shared understanding that we were one community, striving for a better future. We knew that if our children were reared correctly, the future would be bright.

Unfortunately, that feeling of community and shared understanding seem to be eluding us in so many communities. Neighbors are not only apprehensive about correcting children, but they are also afraid. They are not certain if the child's parents will support them or how the child will respond. The statement, "Don't talk to my child," is heard way too often. This message is clearly understood to mean, "Don't correct, admonish or scold someone else's child." What this more than suggests is, if you see a child misbehave, you aren't empowered to correct them. When you hear the child is using profanity, or see them throwing a rock at a neighbor's window, stealing candy out of a store, fighting in the community or simply exhibiting behavior we all know is inappropriate, you are hesitant to get involved.

As a result, after years of children getting away with these behaviors, except for the times they are corrected by their parents, some of them feel empowered to commit more serious acts in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, we are witnessing something we never thought possible: living in fear of the younger generation.

According to Chicago Police Department reports, the average age of carjackers is 15 to 20. In fact, there was almost a 300% increase among children through age 17 from 2019 to 2020. And over 10% of homicides in 2020 were committed by the same age group. We see mobs becoming bolder, and more common, as teens commit violent acts in groups, stifling and frustrating law enforcement. Downtown Chicago is a central focus of some of them. Over the last couple of years, we have seen scores of teens walking in the middle of the streets downtown, jumping over cars, disrupting traffic, even assaulting others, all without a fear in the world.

How did it come to this? This question seems to baffle us all. The reality is that there was not a watershed moment that gave rise to these kinds of acts. It's hard to point to a particular moment in contemporary times that we could suggest is the reason why teenagers feel unashamed to commit such violent and reprehensible acts.

Over the course of time, we simply have allowed it because we didn't permit the village to do its part. The village that we so often referenced decades ago was allowed to intervene, and to help steer a child in the right direction. We empowered one another. The children —that was us —understood and behaved accordingly.

Teenagers have often pushed the envelope, so to speak. They naturally exhibit behaviors and attitudes that we all want to admonish at times.

What is relatively new, and very concerning, is the abject violence and lack of empathy far too many youths are exhibiting. Reactive attachment disorder suggests that children who don't develop healthy relationships with adults, or caregivers, early on in their lives, may develop callous and violent behavior later on.

Perhaps that is what has taken place. So many of our youth have not developed those nurturing relationships with adults. This is all the more reason why it's essential for parents to allow the village to once again assist in raising their child. We can change the behavior of our youth if we change ours. They are a reflection of the mistakes that we, as a society, have made.

We never should have taken the power away from the village, the neighbors, the teachers and all the other adults with whom children come in contact . The good thing is sometimes what was done can be undone. It's not too late to support and truly live by the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child." The change lies with the adults. When children see us working together, respecting and nurturing each other, truly working in their best interest, they do well.

Unfortunately, the road to recovery will be difficult. We have far too many teens and young adults who grew up saying, "No one can correct me but my parents." Let's try to change that mindset, particularly in those who are younger. The village is suffering. Kids are being shot in record numbers, often by individuals who are not much older than them. More than 300 children have been shot in Chicago this year. It feels like a war zone in certain parts of the city. We must empower the community to help raise our children.

Jerald McNair, who has a doctorate in education, is a school administrator in South Holland School District 151.

YOUTUBE'S

From Page 8

lows Facebook's lead from a few months ago. YouTube is actually going further by specifically targeting and removing video channels associated with prominent anti-vax promoters like Dr. Joseph Mercola and Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Mercola and Kennedy both are alleging censorship—which is as false and misleading as their anti-vax nonsense. Governments telling people they can't say something is censorship. A private company declining to let its product be used to promote dangerous lies is responsible behavior, and it's long past time for it.

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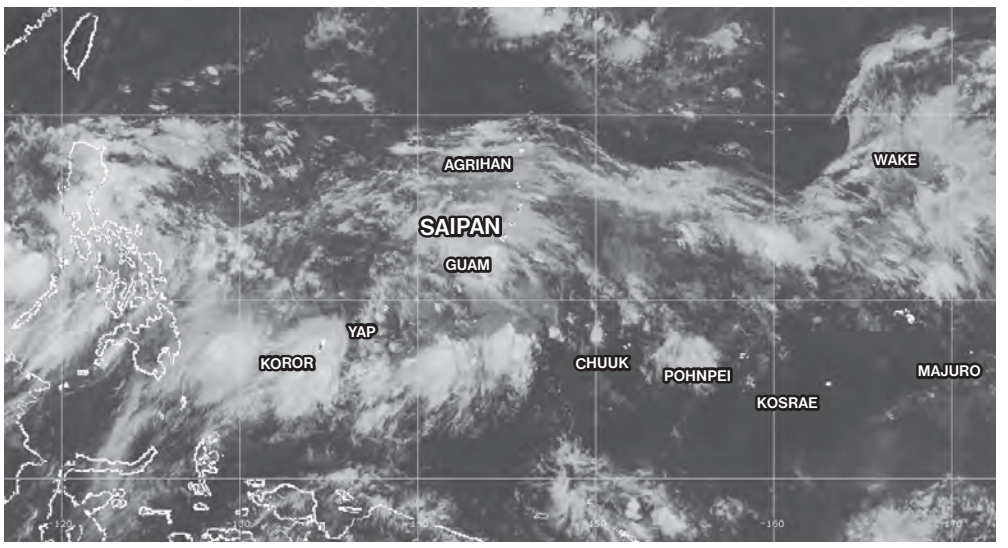
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Lows around 77. Highs near 85. Chance of showers 50 percent.	Cloudy with numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the mid 80s. chance of showers 70 percent.	Cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the mid 80s. Chance of showers 60 percent.	Mostly cloudy with numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. highs in the mid 80s. Chance of showers 70 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. Lows in the upper 70s. chance of showers 50 percent.
85º 77º	80º 70º	80º 70º	80º 70º	80º 70º



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Widespread cloudiness, numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms prevail across the Marianas today, and will continue to for a few more days as a monsoon pattern continues to develop.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	83 / 77 °F
Palau	Light Rain Shower	81 / 77 °F
Yap	Showers in the Vicinity	86 / 76 °F
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	85 / 80 °F
Pohnpei	Cloudy	90 / 77 °F
Kosrae	Fair	87 / 80 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86 / 80 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:38	6:03 PM	-
Thursday	6:35	6:46PM	-
Friday	7:34	7:31 PM	-
Saturday	8:35	8:20 PM	-
Sunday	9:39	9:14 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Fair	65 / 55 °F
Beijing	Fair	63 / 53 °F
Hong Kong	Fair	89 / 81 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	79 / 75 °F
London	Heavy Rain	57 / 50 °F
Los Angeles	Fair	71 / 64 °F
Manila	Light Rain	84 / 78 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	62 / 44 °F
Miami	Fair	81 / 78 °F
New York	Cloudy	63 / 62 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	83 / 67 °F
Paris	Cloudy	62 / 51 °F
Busan	Fair	83 / 69 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	76 / 64 °F
Salem	Rain	69 / 65 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57 / 53 °F
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	79 / 65 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	84 / 68 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	74 / 65 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:19 AM	Low Tide	0.54
7:05 AM	High Tide	1.94
1:30 PM	Low Tide	0.25
7:37 PM	High Tide	2.00

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram suffer worldwide outage

By FRANK BAJAK and BARBARA ORTUTAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook and its Instagram and WhatsApp platforms are back online after a massive global outage plunged the services and the businesses and people who rely on them into chaos for hours.

Facebook said late Monday that "the root cause of this outage was a faulty configuration change" and that there is "no evidence that user data was compromised as a result" of the outage.

The company apologized and said it is working to understand more about the cause, which began around 11:40am Eastern Monday.

Facebook was already in the throes of a separate major crisis after whistleblower Frances Haugen, a former Facebook product manager, provided *The Wall Street Journal* with internal documents that exposed the company's awareness of harms caused by its products and decisions. Haugen went public on CBS's "60 Minutes" program Sunday and is scheduled to testify before a Senate subcommittee Tuesday.

Haugen had also anonymously filed complaints with federal law enforcement alleging Facebook's own research shows how it magnifies hate and misinformation and leads to increased polarization. It also showed that the company was aware that Instagram can harm teenage girls' mental health.

The *Journal*'s stories, called "The Facebook Files," painted a picture of a company focused on growth and its own interests over the public good. Facebook has tried to play down their impact. Nick Clegg, the company's vice president of policy and public affairs, wrote to Facebook employees in a memo Friday that "social media has had a big impact on society in recent years, and Facebook is often a place where much of this debate plays out."

The outage didn't exactly bolster Facebook's argument that its size and clout provide important benefits for the world. London-based internet monitoring firm Netblocks noted that the company's plans to integrate the technology behind its platforms—announced in 2019—had raised concerns about the risks of such a move. While such centralization "gives the company a unified view of users' internet usage habits," Netblocks said, it also makes the services vulnerable to single points of failure.

"This is epic," said Doug Madory, director of internet analysis for Kentik Inc, a network monitoring and intelligence company. The last major internet outage, which knocked many of the world's top websites offline in June, lasted less than an hour. The stricken content-delivery company in that case, Fastly, blamed a software bug triggered by a customer who changed a setting.

For hours, Facebook's only public comment was a tweet in which it acknowledged that "some people are having trouble accessing (the) Facebook app" and said it was working on restoring access. Regarding the internal failures, Instagram head Adam Mosseri tweeted that it feels like a "snow day."

Mike Schroepfer, Facebook's outgoing chief technology officer, later tweeted "sincere apologies."

In Monday night's statement, Facebook blamed changes on routers that coordinate network traffic between data centers. The company said the changes interrupted the communication, which had "a cascading effect on the way our data centers communicate, bringing our services to a halt."

There was no evidence as of Monday afternoon that malicious activity was involved. Matthew Prince, CEO of the internet infrastructure provider Cloudflare, tweeted that "nothing we're seeing related to the Facebook services outage suggests it was an attack."

Facebook did not respond to messages for comment about the attack or the possibility of malicious activity.

While much of Facebook's workforce is still working remotely, there were reports that employees at work on the company's Menlo Park, California, campus had trouble entering buildings because the outage had rendered their security badges useless.

But the impact was far worse for multitudes of Facebook's nearly 3 billion users, showing just how much the world has come to rely on it and its properties—to run businesses, connect with online communities, log on to multiple other websites and even order food.

It also showed that despite the presence of Twitter, Telegram, Signal, TikTok, Snapchat and a bevy of other platforms, nothing can easily replace the social network that over the past 17 years has effectively evolved into critical infrastructure. The outage came the same day Facebook asked a federal judge that a revised antitrust complaint against it by the Federal Trade Commission be dismissed because it faces vigorous competition from other services.

There are certainly other online services for posting selfies, connecting with fans or reaching out to elected officials, But those who rely on Facebook to run their business or communicate with friends and family in far-flung places saw this as little consolation.

Kendall Ross, owner of a knitwear brand called Knit That in Oklahoma City, said he has 32,000 followers on his Instagram business page @id.knit.that. Almost all of his website traffic comes directly from Instagram. He posted a product photo about an hour before Instagram went out. He said he tends to sell about two hand-knit pieces after posting a product photo for about $300 to $400.

"The outage today is frustrating financially," he said. "It's also a huge awakening that social media controls so much of my success in business."

So many people are reliant on Facebook, WhatsApp or Instagram as primary modes of communication that losing access for so long can make them vulnerable to criminals taking advantage of the outage, said Rachel Tobac, a hacker and CEO of SocialProof Security.

"They don't know how to contact the people in their lives without it," she said. "They're more susceptible to social engineering because they're so desperate to communicate." Tobac said during previous outages, some people have received emails promising to restore their social media account by clicking on a malicious link that can expose their personal data.

Jake Williams, chief technical officer of the cybersecurity firm BreachQuest, said that while foul play cannot be completely ruled out, chances were good that the outage is "an operational issue" caused by human error.

"What it boils down to: running a LARGE, even by internet standards, distributed system is very hard, even for the very best," tweeted Columbia University computer scientist Steven Bellovin.

Ex-Facebook employee bringing sharp criticisms to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—A former Facebook data scientist has stunned lawmakers and the public with revelations of the company's awareness of apparent harm to some teens from Instagram and her accusations of dishonesty in its fight against hate and misinformation. Now she is coming before Congress.

Frances Haugen has come forward with a wide-ranging condemnation of Facebook, buttressed with tens of thousands of pages of internal research documents she secretly copied before leaving her job in Facebook's civic integrity unit. Haugen also has filed complaints with federal authorities alleging that Facebook's own research shows that it amplifies hate, misinformation and political unrest, but the company hides what it knows.

After recent reports in The Wall Street Journal based on documents she leaked to the newspaper raised a public outcry, Haugen revealed her identity in a CBS "60 Minutes" interview aired Sunday night. She insisted that "Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety."

The ex-employee challenging the social network giant with 2.8 billion users worldwide and nearly $1 trillion in market value is a 37-year-old data expert from Iowa with a degree in computer engineering and a master's degree in business from Harvard. She worked for 15 years prior to being recruited by Facebook in 2019 at companies including Google and Pinterest.

Haugen is set to testify to the Senate Commerce subcommittee on consumer protection at a hearing Tuesday.

The panel is examining Facebook's use of information from its own researchers on Instagram that could indicate potential harm for some of its young users, especially girls, while it publicly downplayed the negative impacts. For some of the teens devoted to Facebook's popular photo-sharing platform, the peer pressure generated by the visually focused Instagram led to mental health and body-image problems, and in some cases, eating disorders and suicidal thoughts, the research leaked by Haugen showed.

One internal study cited 13.5% of teen girls saying Instagram makes thoughts of suicide worse and 17% of teen girls saying it makes eating disorders worse.

"And what's super tragic is Facebook's own research says, as these young women begin to consume this eating disorder content, they get more and more depressed," Haugen said in the televised interview. "And it actually makes them use the app more. And so, they end up in this feedback cycle where they hate their bodies more and more."

As the public relations debacle over the Instagram research grew last week, Facebook put on hold its work on a kids' version of Instagram, which the company says is meant mainly for tweens aged 10 to 12.

The senators are eager to hear from Haugen.

"I look forward to asking her follow-up questions about why Facebook hasn't taken action to fix problems on its platforms, even when its own internal research reflects massive problems," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., a member of the subcommittee, told The Associated Press on Monday. "I want to discuss how Facebook's algorithms promote harmful and divisive content, and how much Facebook really profits off of our children."

In this March 29, 2018, file photo, the logo for Facebook appears on screens at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square. AP

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Trial against pharmacy chains' opioid sales begins

CLEVELAND (AP)—Retail pharmacy chains contributed to a deadly and expensive public nuisance in two Ohio counties where the opioid crisis continues to rage, an attorney for the counties said in an opening statement Monday in federal court in Cleveland. It was the first day of trial in the lawsuit filed in 2018 by Lake and Trumbull counties outside Cleveland against retail pharmacy companies CVS, Walgreens, Walmart and Giant Eagle. "They're going to say, 'We're not any part of the problem,'" attorney Mark Lanier said. "They're going to blame everyone but themselves." The cost of abating the crisis is $1 billion each for each county, one of their attorneys has said. Around 80 million prescription painkillers were dispensed in Trumbull County between 2012 and 2016—400 for every county resident—while 61 million pills were dispensed in Lake County during that five-year period—265 pills for every resident.

Australia won't welcome international tourists until 2022

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—International tourists won't be welcomed back to Australia until next year, with the return of skilled migrants and students given higher priority, the prime minister said on Tuesday. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australia was expected to reach the vaccination benchmark on Tuesday at which the country could begin to open up: 80% of the population aged 16 and older having a second shot. Last week, he outlined plans to allow vaccinated citizens and permanent residents to fly overseas from November for the first time since an extraordinarily tough travel ban took effect in March last year. But Morrison on Tuesday said that after Australians, the next priority would be skilled migrants and international students entering Australia before tourists.

Nation

COVID vaccine mandate takes effect for NYC teachers, staff

NEW YORK (AP)—A COVID-19 vaccine requirement for teachers and other staff members took effect Monday in New York City's million-plus-student public school system, in a key test of the employee vaccination mandates being rolled out across the country.

The city had planned to bring in substitutes where needed, with Mayor Bill de Blasio warning that unvaccinated school employees would be placed on unpaid leave. But 95% of the city's roughly 148,000 public school staffers had received at least one vaccine dose as of Monday morning, including 96% of teachers and 99% of principals, de Blasio said.

"Our parents need to know their kids will be safe," the mayor said. "They entrust us with their children. That's what this mandate is all about. Every adult in our schools is now vaccinated, and that's going to be the rule going forward."

Schools Chancellor Meisha Ross Porter said she did not know exactly how many employees had declined the shots and been put on leave.

Implementing the mandate smoothly could be a test for de Blasio, a Democrat who boasted of the city's record of keeping school buildings open during most of the last school year when other districts went to all-remote instruction. New York City is not offering a remote option this year.

A school bus passes through a steam vent on a morning route, Monday, Oct. 4, 2021, in the Manhattan borough of New York. AP

The nation's largest school system is one of the first in the country to require inoculations for all its staffers. The system's mandate does not include a test-out option, but does allow for medical and religious exemptions. A similar mandate is set to go into effect in Los Angeles on Oct. 15.

Some 43,000 doses have been administered since the mandate was announced Aug. 23, de Blasio said.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona hailed the vaccine mandate, saying New York City is "doing it right."

"Students need to be in the classroom. They need to be safe and we need to make sure we're doing everything possible to let our staff get vaccinated and make sure that our schools are as safe as possible," Cardona said.

Vaccination rates rose in every school job category after the mandate was announced. District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents some 20,000 city Department of Education employees, said 93% of those workers had provided proof of at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose as of Sunday, up from 68% at the beginning of September.

Under a deal worked out with the city, unvaccinated District Council 37 members who want to apply for a medical or religious exemption have until 5 p.m. Tuesday to do so, union officials said in a news release.

The mandate was supposed to go into effect last week, but was delayed when a federal appeals court granted a temporary injunction sought by a group of teachers. An appeals panel reversed that decision three days later. A request to the Supreme Court for an injunction was also denied.

Roxanne Rizzi, who teaches technology at an elementary school in Queens, waited until Friday to get her first coronavirus vaccine shot.

"I had to do it for the finances of my family," she said.

Rizzi, 55, had resisted the vaccine because she contracted COVID-19 in November and believed natural immunity would protect her. She said she would continue to protest the mandate.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people should get vaccinated even if they have already been infected by the virus. The agency says COVID-19 vaccines offer better protection than natural immunity and help prevent getting infected again.

Some people vocally opposed to vaccine mandates did protest Monday. Video posted to social media showed demonstrators marching in locations around the city, including outside a Department of Education building in Brooklyn, carrying signs saying things such as: "Resist Medical Tyranny!"

Another video on social media showed people overturning a COVID-19 testing facility's tent and table as the protesters marched passed it.

Many students and parents support the vaccine mandate as the best way to keep schools open during the pandemic.

"It's safer for our kids," said Joyce Ramirez, 28, who was picking her three children up from a Bronx elementary school last week.

Cody Miller, a 15-year-old sophomore at a high school in Manhattan, said teachers should all be vaccinated. "I think they should," said the teen, who got vaccinated himself as soon as the Pfizer shot was approved for people 12 and up. "It's so many kids, it's a big environment, you know?"

Refugee admissions hit record low, despite Biden's reversal

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Refugee admissions to the United States fell to a record low during the 2021 budget year, despite President Joe Biden's pledge to reverse the sharp cuts made by the Trump administration, according to figures obtained by The Associated Press.

A total of 11,445 refugees were allowed into the United States during the budget year that ended on Thursday, according to a person with access to the information who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the figure.

That number does not include the tens of thousands of Afghans brought to the United States as American troops withdrew from Afghanistan, ending the 20-year war there. Many of those Afghans were allowed into the country under a different legal status known as humanitarian parole, which is why they are not included in the refugee tally.

Still the number highlights Biden's challenges in reversing the restrictive refugee policies set by former President Donald Trump's administration, which targeted the program as part of a broader campaign to slash both legal and illegal immigration to the United States.

The U.S. president determines the cap on refugee admissions each budget year, which runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. Biden didn't take office until almost four months after the last fiscal year began.

The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the number.

The 11,445 refugee admissions total falls far below the nation's cap of 62,500 for the 2021 budget year that Biden set in May. It's also below the record-low ceiling of 15,000 that Trump had initially set for the year.

Biden initially indicated he would not override the 15,000-person cap, saying in an emergency determination that it "remains justified by humanitarian concerns and is otherwise in the national interest."

After 40 Powerball drawings, will someone win $685M jackpot?

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—After 40 drawings without a big Powerball winner, maybe Monday night's 41st attempt will be different.

The winning numbers drawn Monday night were 12, 22, 54, 66 and 69. The Powerball was 15.

Thanks to nearly four months of futility, the Powerball jackpot has climbed to an estimated $685 million, making it the eighth largest in U.S. lottery history. No one has won the game's grand prize since June 5.

Every drawing now sets a record, topping the previous mark of 36 drawings that ended in January 2021. The longer the game goes without a grand prize winner, the larger the payout will grow.

The jackpot drought is by design, as the game's long odds of 292.2 million to one are intended to generate massive prizes that draw more players.

Lottery officials are quick to note that even as no one wins the jackpot, plenty of people have won smaller prizes, including 2.8 million players in Saturday's drawing alone. Those winnings ranged from $1 million to $4.

The $685 million promoted prize is for a winner who chooses the annuity option, paid over 29 years. Nearly all big winners take the cash option, which for Monday night's drawing is an estimated $485.5 million. Either prize option would also be subject to taxes.

ACROSS THE NATION

Black ex-Tesla worker who claimed racial abuse awarded $137M

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tesla Inc. must pay nearly $137 million to a Black former worker who said he suffered racial abuse at the electric carmaker's San Francisco Bay Area factory. The jury in San Francisco agreed that Owen Diaz was subjected to racial harassment and a hostile work environment. Diaz alleged in a lawsuit that he was harassed and faced "daily racist epithets," including the "N-word," while working at Tesla's Fremont plant in 2015 and 2016 before quitting. Diaz was a contracted elevator operator. Diaz alleged that employees drew swastikas and left racist graffiti and drawings around the plant. He contended that supervisors failed to stop the abuse. "Tesla's progressive image was a façade papering over its regressive, demeaning treatment of African-American employees," the lawsuit said.

Did ship's anchor causeCalifornia oil spill? Maybe

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Officials investigating one of California's largest recent oil spills are looking into whether a ship's anchor may have struck an oil pipeline on the ocean floor, causing heavy crude to leak into coastal waters and foul beaches, authorities said Monday. The head of the company that operates the pipeline said company divers were inspecting the area of the suspected leak that was discovered Saturday, and he expected that by Tuesday there would be a clearer of what caused the damage. A anchor from a cargo ship striking the pipeline is "one of the distinct possibilities" behind the leak, Amplify Energy CEO Martyn Willsher told a news conference. He said divers have examined more than 8,000 feet (2,438 meters) of the pipeline and were focusing on "one area of significant interest."

DEA agent, gunman killed in Amtrak train shooting in Arizona

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent was killed Monday when a passenger, who also died, opened fire as officers were doing a routine inspection for illegal contraband on an Amtrak train in Tucson, Arizona, authorities said. A second agent and a Tucson police officer were wounded. "It's very horrific and we're all just coming to terms with just how terrible a loss this is," Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus said. "But I also want to reflect on the really heroic actions of the officers at the scene. They literally ran towards the danger, into the car, where there was an active shooting situation going on." Magnus spoke outside the hospital where the wounded agent and Tucson officer had been taken. The agent was listed in critical condition while the officer was in stable condition. He said authorities would not be releasing their names. ***(AP)***

Florida: Gator attacks, hurts woman after she falls in canal

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—An alligator attacked and injured a homeless woman after she fell into a Florida canal on Monday, authorities said. The woman was resting on a sea wall when she fell into the canal, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue said in a news release. Someone heard the woman's cries for help and called 911. The woman, who is in her 50s, was taken to a hospital with severe injuries to her arms, the news release said. She was reported in stable condition. Authorities from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said a trapper captured an alligator measuring nearly 11 feet (3.3 meters) long. The wildlife agency uses professional gator trappers for its Nuisance Alligator Program.

World

‘Pandora Papers’ bring renewed calls for tax haven scrutiny

AP

MAKING IT OFFICIAL
Manila City Mayor Isko Moreno, right, and running mate Dr. Willie Ong gesture after filing their certificate of candidacy for next year’s presidential elections before the Commission on Elections at the Sofitel Harbor Garden Tent in Metropolitan Manila, Philippines on Monday, Oct. 4, 2021. The popular mayor of the Philippine capital promises to ease coronavirus outbreaks, fix the country’s battered economy and heal deep political divisions. Moreno is one of several aspirants in what is expected to be a crowded and politically hostile race to succeed Rodrigo Duterte. Senator and retired boxing star Manny Pacquiao filed his certificate of candidacy Friday, and Duterte’s daughter is among others likely to seek the presidency in the May 9 elections.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Calls grew Monday for an end to the financial secrecy that has allowed many of the world’s richest and most powerful people to hide their wealth from tax collectors.

The outcry came after a report revealed the way that world leaders, billionaires and others have used shell companies and offshore accounts to keep trillions of dollars out of government treasuries over the past quarter-century, limiting the resources for helping the poor or combating climate change.

The report by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists brought promises of tax reform and demands for resignations and investigations, as well as explanations and denials from those targeted.

The investigation, dubbed the Pandora Papers, was published Sunday and involved 600 journalists from 150 media outlets in 117 countries.

Hundreds of politicians, celebrities, religious leaders and drug dealers have used shell companies or other tactics to hide their wealth and investments in mansions, exclusive beachfront property, yachts and other assets, according to a review of nearly 12 million files obtained from 14 firms located around the world.

“The Pandora Papers is all about individuals using secrecy jurisdictions, which we would call tax havens, when the goal is to evade taxes,” said Steve Wamhoff, director of federal tax policy at the left-leaning Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy in Washington.

The tax dodges can be legal.

Gabriel Zucman, a University of California, Berkeley, economist who studies income inequality and taxes, said in a statement one solution is “obvious”: Ban “shell companies—corporations with no economic substance, whose sole purpose is to avoid taxes or other laws.”

WORLD BRIEFS

New Zealand admits it can no longer get rid of coronavirus

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand’s government acknowledged Monday what most other countries did long ago: It can no longer completely get rid of the coronavirus. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced a cautious plan to ease lockdown restrictions in Auckland, despite an outbreak there that continues to simmer. Since early in the pandemic, New Zealand had pursued an unusual zero-tolerance approach to the virus through strict lockdowns and aggressive contact tracing. Until recently, that elimination strategy had worked remarkably well for the country of 5 million, which has reported just 27 virus deaths.

Bomb at Kabul mosque kills 5 civilians, Taliban say

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—At least five civilians were killed in a bomb blast outside a Kabul mosque Sunday, a Taliban official said. It was the deadliest attack in the Afghan capital since U.S. forces left at the end of August. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic State extremists who have stepped up attacks on the Taliban in recent weeks, particularly in an IS stronghold in eastern Afghanistan. An apparent roadside bomb went off at the gate of the sprawling Eid Gah Mosque in Kabul at a time when a memorial service was being held for the mother of chief Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. Five people were killed, said Qari Saeed Khosti, the spokesman of the Interior Ministry.

UNICEF: Battered by pandemic, kids need mental health help

PARIS (AP)—Governments must pour more money and resources into preserving the mental well-being of children and adolescents, the U.N.’s child protection agency urged in a report Tuesday that sounded alarms about blows to mental health from the COVID-19 pandemic that hit poor and vulnerable children particularly hard. The United Nations Children’s Fund said its “State of the World’s Children” study is its most comprehensive look so far this century at the mental health of children and adolescents globally. The coronavirus crisis, forcing school closures that upended the lives of children and adolescents, has thrust the issue of their mental well-being to the fore. UNICEF said it may take years to fully measure the extent of the pandemic’s impact on young people’s mental health. Psychiatrists quickly saw signs of distress, with children and adolescents seeking help for suicidal thoughts, anxiety, eating disorders and other difficulties as lockdowns and switching to remote learning severed them from friends and routines and as COVID-19 killed parents and grandparents.

Japan’s Kishida, Biden agree to cooperate on China, N Korea

TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held his first talks as Japanese leader with President Joe Biden and confirmed they will work to strengthen their alliance and cooperate in regional security in the face of growing challenges from China and North Korea. Kishida, who was elected by Parliament and sworn in Monday, told reporters that Biden reassured him of the U.S. commitment to defend the Japanese-controlled East China Sea island Senkaku, which China also claims and has escalated coast guard activity in the area. Biden provided “a strong statement about U.S. commitment for the defense of Japan, including ... Senkaku,” Kishida said, adding that the two leaders also reaffirmed they would tackle together the “challenges facing neighboring regions such as China and North Korea.”

Indian town on edge after 9 die during farm protest

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Indian authorities suspended internet services and barred political leaders from entering a northern town Monday to calm tensions after nine people were killed Four farmers died Sunday when a car owned by Junior Home Minister Ajay Mishra ran over protesting farmers in the Uttar Pradesh town of Lakhimpur Kheri, officials and farm leaders said. Mishra said his driver and three members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party who were in the car were all killed by the protesters in the violence that broke out after the incident. “They were beaten to death by the farmers,” Mishra said in a statement. Farm leaders alleged that Mishra’s son was in the car when it ran over the protesters, but Mishra denied it.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY

†Rose Marie Sonis Pangelinan Camacho

NOVEMBER 07, 1972 - OCTOBER 08, 2020

We humbly invite all
our relatives and friends to join us
in prayer as we commemorate the
1st Year Death Anniversary
of our beloved †Rose.

Beginning Thursday,
September 30, 2021
until Friday, October 8, 2021,
daily Mass of Intention
will be at 6:00 p.m.
On Sunday, October 03, 2021,
Mass of Intention will be at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 30, 2021 - San Roque Church
Friday, October 01, 2021 - Santa Remedios Church
Saturday, October 02, 2021 - Santa Remedios Church
Sunday, October 03, 2021 - Santa Remedios Church
Monday, October 04, 2021 - Santa Remedios Church
Tuesday, October 05, 2021 - Santa Remedios Church
Wedneday, October 06, 2021 - Santa Remedios Church
Thursday, October 07, 2021 - Santa Remedios Church
Friday, October 08, 2021 - Santa Remedios Church

Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Kinisou Chapur, and Thank you

ANTHONY A. CAMACHO, CHILDREN, & FAMILY

Good Housekeeping

Black furniture pieces helps to anchor and provide a focal point in this living space.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS

The beauty of black decor

HANDOUT/TNS

Black artwork makes a bold statement in this bedroom when contrasted with cream.

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Black in home decor is like a great dress—it can be both dressed up and dressed down. Even so, black can mostly be used to add instant glamour and luxury to a space. Black is also a foundation color, allowing it to pair well with a number of colors for a truly rich and stunning look.

Looking for ways to incorporate the color black into your home? Here are some top tips.

1 Use black to create a strong architectural detail or feature in a room.This can be done, for example, by painting an accent wall black or using black to highlight an architectural element such as baseboards and trims.

2 Consider purchasing primary furniture pieces in black such as sofas, coffee tables and accents.

3 Look for ways to pair black with metal finishes such as brass and nickel. Black can serve well to help accentuate.

4 Pair black with white or cream. Creating contrast can make a bold design statement.

5 Use black to anchor a space or create a focal point. This can be done through larger furniture pieces as well as artwork.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS

Black accents are paired with brass and greenery to welcome guests at an entry console.

Black architectural features such as black baseboards and trim, help to create an instant architectural feature.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS

Life & Style

Jury awards $6.3M to Shannen Doherty in State Farm fire suit

Doherty

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal jury in Los Angeles awarded $6.3 million to actor Shannen Doherty on Monday in a lawsuit alleging that State Farm failed to pay sufficiently for damage to her house in a 2018 California wildfire.

The jury found that the insurance giant's failure to pay policy benefits for Doherty's Malibu home were "unreasonable and without proper cause."

The verdict covers damages to Doherty's house and property, emotional distress and attorney's fees.

"We thank the members of the jury for their thoughtful consideration of Shannen's case," Doherty's attorney Devin McRae said in a statement. "We are happy they saw the case the way we do. This should send a message to State Farm and other institutions that they should not forget they are dealing with human beings."

Doherty, the 50-year-old former star of "Beverly Hills, 90210," "Charmed" and "Heathers" revealed in February 2020 that the breast cancer she had been diagnosed with in 2015 had recurred and progressed to stage 4.

Her attorneys said in court documents that "instead of living out her remaining years peacefully in her home, Ms. Doherty remains displaced and battling with her insurance company."

In its own statement Monday, State Farm said, "We empathize with Ms. Doherty's health and wish her the best. We are disappointed by the jury's decision and respectfully disagree with it. We will explore all available legal options, including appealing the verdict."

Britney Spears thanks #FreeBritney fans after dad's removal

Britney Spears thanks #FreeBritney fans after dad's removal (AP)—Britney Spears thanked fans who have called for years to #FreeBritney for major changes in the conservatorship that has long controlled her life and money.

Spears' identical posts on Twitter and Instagram on Monday were her first public comments on the case since a judge suspended her father as conservator of her estate last week, a move she had long expressed hope for.

"#FreeBritney movement … I have no words … because of you guys and your constant resilience in freeing me from my conservatorship … my life is now in that direction !!!!!" Spears said in the posts, along with a brief, wordless video of herself. "I cried last night for two hours cause my fans are the best and I know it …I feel your hearts and you feel mine … that much I know is true."

Spears has not been freed from the conservatorship entirely. The legal arrangement that has been in place since 2008 remains, minus her father, but it may be terminated at a Nov. 12 hearing.

While fans constantly search for cryptic comments on her conservatorship in her Instagram posts, the singer rarely writes directly about it on social media.

Her attorney Matthew Rosengart has vowed to pursue an investigation of her father, James Spears, and his handling of the conservatorship even now that he has been removed.

James Spears' attorneys said there were no grounds for his removal, that his actions were always based on his daughter's best interest, and that his suspension is a "loss for Britney."

Billie Eilish becomes youngest star to headline Glastonbury

Eilish

LONDON (AP)—Nineteen-year-old pop singer Billie Eilish has broken numerous records in her short career. Now she will become the Glastonbury Festival's youngest-ever solo headliner when she takes the stage at the 2022 event.

Eilish teased the news on Sunday on Instagram, posing herself wearing a Glastonbury hoodie in a photo captioned "2022." The festival's organizers confirmed Monday that the American singer will perform on June 24.

"This feels like the perfect way for us to return and I cannot wait!" organizer Emily Eavis said.

The festival was supposed to celebrate its 50th anniversary last year, but it was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. This year it hosted a five-hour livestream event featuring Coldplay and Damon Albarn, among others.

Eilish has taken the world by storm since she broke onto the scene in 2015 with her debut single "Ocean Eyes." The young singer has since won Grammys for record of the year, album of the year, song of the year and best new artist.

Eilish made her Glastonbury debut in 2019 after her set was upgraded from a slot on the John Peel stage during the five-day music festival held in Somerset, southwest England.

Eilish is also the youngest performer to write and record a James Bond theme song. She was among the stars at the "No Time To Die" Bond film world premiere in London last week.

Eilish will be 20 years and 6 months old when she headlines the Gastonbury festival in June 2022.

Daniel Craig on bidding Bond goodbye in 'No Time to Die'

NEW YORK (AP)—When Daniel Craig first got the gig, he felt like something had gone amiss. "You've got the wrong guy," he told the producers.

But Barbara Broccoli and Michael Wilson insisted. No, he was the one. He was James Bond.

Craig, then a rising performer but far from the expected choice, never had any ambitions to play James Bond. He had assumed he was being strung along as part of a massive casting machine, one of dozens of actors screen tested.

"Once I did find out, I was incredibly flattered and deeply confused," Craig recalled in an interview. "I just felt like I wasn't the right person."

Fifteen years and five films later, Craig's tenure as 007 is coming to a close. "No Time to Die," which opens in the U.S. on Friday after a 16-month delay due to the pandemic, is the last hurrah in Craig's celebrated Bond era, a stewardship that saw Craig remake and emotionally deepen the once retrograde superspy—with more than $3 billion in box office along the way. Once derisively labeled "Blond Bond," Craig turned out to be a smash success.

NICOLA DOVE/METRO GOLDWYN MAYER PICTURES VIA AP
This image released by Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures shows Daniel Craig in a scene from "No Time To Die."

"It paid off in spades," said Broccoli. "He's truly remarkable. He's reinvented it for the 21st century. He explored the inner-life of Bond."

But would Craig have ever gone through with it had he known what he was in for?

"If I had known more, I don't think I would have been able to do it. The less information I had back then, the better," said Craig, speaking by Zoom from New York. "The rest of it, the weight of it, how huge it all really is—I didn't know. I didn't really understand."

He pauses. "I don't suppose I really understand it now, either," Craig added. "I pretend to understand. That's what getting older is all about. I pretend better than I did back then."

Daughter's relationship choices disappoint mom

DEAR ABBY: I have a 23-year-old daughter, "Julia," who I am close with. She has been in a relationship with "Joey," a guy her age, for four years and living with him for the last 16 months. Joey's a great kid who hasn't had a lot of support in his life. I have been like a mother to him, and we are very close. He works hard, earned a college degree and plans on a career in law enforcement. I love him like my own.

The issue is, Julia has been working a part-time evening job. She works with a man I'll call "Nick," who is 10 years older and has a child. She has started having an affair with him. She claims to love Joey but is "torn" because she's bored and wants to "have fun." I am upset and devastated.

From the sound of him, Nick doesn't have many great qualities. I believe she's making a grave mistake and risks losing a great future. I have tried getting her to see it, but I don't think I'm getting through. Should I continue or back off and see what happens? I feel like I am betraying Joey because I know about this.

TORN-APART MOM

DEAR MOM: As much as you might wish to, you cannot live Julia's life for her. From your description of your daughter, she's not ready for marriage or even a permanent commitment. Joey may be the catch of a lifetime, but if she can't appreciate him and the life he has to offer, he isn't the man for her. Step back and allow her to make her own mistakes, because that's how people learn. And when the truth comes out, tell Joey how sorry you are that things turned out the way they did and that you will always love him like a son.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 50-year-old woman, and this is the second time my dad has mentioned that he and Mom thought about aborting me before I was born. He qualifies this statement by exclaiming, "I just called to let you know I'm so GLAD your mother and I didn't go through with the abortion, and how HAPPY I am that you are here." The thing is, until he said it, I never knew it had crossed their minds.

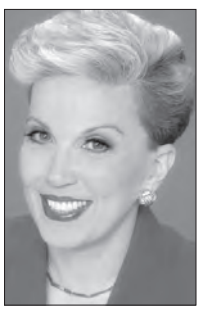
He knew his statement upset me, yet he brought it up again tonight in a phone call, with even more disturbing information —that they had even gone to a doctor to get it done! He uses subtle ways to sneak the new information in, even though he knows it's hurtful. What is his motive? What does he want? Why does he do this?

PERPLEXED IN ALABAMA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Saying something one knows is hurtful is cruel. If you haven't discussed this bizarre scenario with your mother, you should. Could dear old Dad be losing it? Is he seeking gratitude from you? Was he drunk when he made the call? His behavior is so far from normal I can't imagine why he would say such a thing TWICE. Because he may be trying to get a rise out of you, consider deflecting with humor or sarcasm or simply hanging up.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DON'T MAKE FACES AT THE TABLE, CALVIN.
I CAN'T HELP IT.
MOM SAID MY FACE WOULD FREEZE LIKE THIS SOME DAY, AND IT JUST DID.
NO, IT DIDN'T.
IT DID, DAD! MOM WAS RIGHT. I'M HORRIBLY DISFIGURED FOR LIFE.
NO, YOU AREN'T.
BUT DON'T WORRY, I WON'T SPOIL DINNER. SEE? ELEPHANT MAN!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WOULD YOU MIND TRYING A BRAND-NEW MEDICINE?
IT'S DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO HELP...HOW SHOULD I SAY, PEOPLE WHO ARE RATHER DUMB AND UNAWARE.
WELL?
OH, WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Texter's "Enough!"
4 Pair
7 Ireland
8 "— we all?"
10 Public outburst
11 Balm of —
13 North America's "Third Coast"
16 Not neg.
17 Records
18 Nosh
19 Hidden mike
20 Bits of wit
21 Toaster's word
23 Answers an invitation
25 Heaps
26 Lure
27 Distant
28 Gist
30 Crib
33 1997 Elton John album
36 Rio Grande city
37 "Stop kidding!"
38 Famous
39 Chow —
40 Pallid
41 — Juan

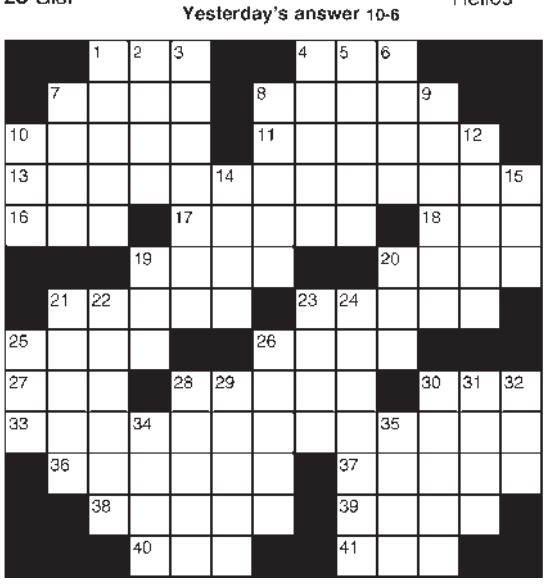
DOWN

1 Grove units
2 Chinese dynasty
3 Lethargy
4 Banal
5 Oil sources
6 Draft status
7 Canyon comeback
8 Open-mouthed
9 Start, as a hobby
10 NASCAR sponsor
12 College VIPs
14 British noble
15 Map lines (Abbr.)
19 Triumphed
20 USMC rank
21 Lesley of "60 Minutes"
22 The "K" of K-pop
23 Hindu royal
24 Funny TV shows
25 Astern
26 Two-legged stand
28 Michelangelo masterpiece
29 Poet Nash
30 Poker entry fee
31 Pressing thing?
32 Modern, in Bonn
34 Forehead
35 Mother of Helios

Solution time: 23 mins.

H	E	R	D		R	T	S		S	A	S	H
O	V	E	R		C	R	A		O	C	H	O
B	A	S	E		D	I	C	A	P	R	I	O
O	N	T	A	R	I	O		S	H	E	A	F
			M	O	N		S	K	I			
K	A	N	Y	E		R	O	S	A	R	I	O
I	I	I			D	E	B			I	C	Y
A	R	E	O	R	I	O		P	U	P	I	L
			R	I	G		C	O	B			
E	N	A	C	T		C	H	E	C	R	I	O
L	O	T	H	A	R	I	O		R	O	C	K
A	S	T	I		M	A	R		E	T	A	L
M	E	A	D		S	O	D		D	I	N	A

Yesterday's answer 10-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Sisto, 47; Amy Jo Johnson, 51; Elisabeth Shue, 58; Britt Ekland, 79.

Happy Birthday: Evaluate your life, what you've done, what you want to do and how best to achieve your goals. Turn your attention to making your dreams come true. Map out a plan, and put one foot in front of the other until you feel the peace that comes with living life your way. Be true to yourself, and everything else will fall into place. Your numbers are 3, 17, 19, 23, 34, 42, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Draw on your experience and what you know to get what you want. Call on those you trust to come through for you without supervision. Say what's on your mind, and explore avenues that fit your qualifications. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make "steady and ready" your motto. It's essential to stick to a path and show responsibility if you want others to take you seriously. Consistent behavior will mark the sign of a leader and encourage others to look up to you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get out and share your sparkling personality with others. You'll attract attention, and if you use your words wisely, you will gain support and respect moving forward. Offer suggestions and help to your peers and friends, and good things will happen. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Monitor what's going on around you. Problems at home will leave you confused if you are too close to the situation. Don't show anger or upset; remain calm, and you will find it easier to manipulate the outcome. Choose love over discord. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Set the pace. Speak up, be brave and back your words with action. Keep your circle small, and execute your plans with precision. You will accomplish plenty if you stay on track. Refuse to let a personal matter interrupt your goals. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Concentrate on your responsibilities, and map out a plan to ensure you use your time and energy wisely. Your discipline and hard work will not go unnoticed. You'll get a clue on how to navigate yourself into a prime position. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't get bogged down by your to-do list. Take a systematic approach to knock off one chore after another. Rewarding yourself for your time, effort and patience will ensure that you don't fall behind or give up. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Think matters through; don't take on more than you can handle. Home improvements will end up costing more than anticipated. Be innovative, and you'll find a way to cut corners. You are overdue for a change. Share your plans with someone special. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You've got some good ideas. Don't hold back; reiterate what you want to do, and you'll find out quickly who is supportive and who isn't. Handle those you live with carefully, or someone will take advantage of you. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be a good listener, and you'll find out information that will help you avoid getting into something questionable. Say little, and keep everyone guessing until you are ready to reveal your next move. Secrecy is in your best interest. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* An exaggerated opinion someone has will interfere with your plans. Look beyond what's right in front of you, and you'll know what to do to avoid getting involved in someone's plan. Do your own thing, regardless of what others do. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You are on the right path. Do your research, and stick to a plan you can afford. Verify what's required to reach your goal without interference. Take care of details personally, and you won't be disappointed. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, diligent and well-liked. You are persuasive and innovative.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	8	4	6	7		
	1						6	
4				1				8
7				9				4
6	5			8	4	1		3
3								9
8								5
	9			7			1	
		4	2	5	3	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	1	4	3	7	5	2	8	6
8	7	3	6	2	4	1	9	5
2	5	6	1	9	8	4	7	3
7	9	8	4	5	1	3	6	2
1	6	2	9	8	3	5	4	7
3	4	5	7	6	2	9	1	8
5	2	9	8	4	6	7	3	1
4	8	1	5	3	7	6	2	9
6	3	7	2	1	9	8	5	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

AUTUMN AIR **Solution: 5 letters**

S	E	S	E	A	S	O	N	S	E	G	N	A	H	C
S	W	C	C	R	E	B	M	E	T	P	E	S	M	O
K	E	E	I	P	I	R	O	T	C	A	R	T	A	L
R	I	L	A	P	P	N	E	D	R	A	G	O	Z	O
A	R	T	P	T	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	O	E	R
P	C	I	E	P	E	D	L	E	I	F	G	B	V	S
H	O	R	C	H	A	R	D	V	E	N	R	R	R	E
O	F	A	R	M	O	T	I	C	I	E	S	E	A	V
R	A	I	S	O	S	G	A	P	B	N	D	E	C	A
S	L	N	D	A	S	L	M	O	I	I	P	Z	L	E
E	L	T	O	K	P	A	T	K	C	C	K	E	O	L
E	U	R	N	E	C	C	P	C	O	R	N	E	O	L
O	K	A	R	N	O	M	A	N	N	I	C	I	H	I
C	H	I	P	M	U	N	K	S	C	R	U	N	C	H
T	F	L	H	P	I	N	E	C	O	N	E	S	S	C

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Animals, Apples, Bike, Boots, Breeze, Camping, Carve, Changes, Chill, Chipmunks, Cider, Cinnamon, Colors, Corn, Crunch, Fall, Farm, Field, Fireplace, Garden, Hike, Horse, Kite, Leaves, Maze, October, Orchard, Outdoor, Park, Patch, Picnic, Pies, Pinecones, Pumpkins, Rain, Roast, School, Season, September, Spice, Sweater, Thanksgiving, Tractor, Trail

Yesterday's Answer: Ronco

Treasuries 23 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Herbert, Ekeler propel Chargers to 28-14 win over Raiders

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Justin Herbert threw for three touchdowns, Austin Ekeler rushed for a career-high 117 yards and scored twice and the Los Angeles Chargers knocked the Las Vegas Raiders from the unbeaten ranks with a 28-14 victory Monday night.

Los Angeles is 3-1 for the first time since 2014 and part of a three-way tie atop the AFC West with Las Vegas and Denver. The Raiders' loss means the Arizona Cardinals are the NFL's lone undefeated team after four weeks.

Chargers first-year coach Brandon Staley was pleased with his team's offensive balance as well as staying within the game plan. Los Angeles had the ball for nearly 35 minutes with three of their four scoring drives going nine plays or more.

"We stayed patient, I thought we had a good mix of the run and pass. Justin was extremely patient tand Austin came alive tonight," he said..

Herbert, who completed 25 of 38 passes for 222 yards, accounted for all of his TDs in the first half as the Chargers built a 21-0 halftime lead. The Raiders scored on their first two possessions of the second half to draw within a touchdown, but Ekeler gave Los Angeles some breathing room with an 11-yard run off left guard. Herbert had the key play of the drive with a 13-yard completion to Jared Cook on fourth-and-2 from midfield.

Herbert achieved a pair of milestones in the win. He completed his 500th pass in his 19th start, becoming the first quarterback in the Super Bowl era to reach that before his 20th start. He has accounted for 10 touchdowns in his first three prime time games, tying Patrick Mahomes and Dan Marino.

AP

Los Angeles Chargers receiver Tevaughn Campbell can't make the catch as he is hit by Las Vegas Raiders defender Hunter Renfrow during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Oct. 4, 2021, in Inglewood, Calif.

Ekeler, who had 145 total yards, also had a touchdown reception in the second quarter.

Derek Carr was 21 of 34 for 196 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. The Raiders could manage only 48 yards rushing against a Chargers defense that was last in the league in run defense.

"We cannot come out and take that many punches in the first round. I'm proud of our guys showing a toughness to get up and keep fighting, but that was ridiculous tonight," Raiders coach Jon Gruden said. "They got on us and they got after us in all three phases, and we found a way to make it a football game and give ourselves a chance, but it's just too hard in this league against good teams."

The Chargers took the opening kickoff and went 75 yards in 12 plays. Herbert completed all six of his passes on the drive, including a 4 yard bullet to tight end Donald Parham in the back of the end zone to put them on top 7-0.

Los Angeles extended its lead to 21-0 at halftime by scoring on the final two drives of the first half. Herbert's 10-yard TD to Cook was set up by a 41-yard completion to a wide open Stephen Anderson to the Raiders 12 three plays earlier.

After the Raiders went three-and-out, Herbert led the Chargers on a nine-play drive. He completed his last five passes, including a 14-yard screen to Ekeler for the score.

Las Vegas was held to one first down and 51 net yards in the first half, but made adjustments at halftime and scored on its first two possessions of the second half. The Raiders took the third-quarter kickoff and scored when Carr found Hunter Renfrow for a 10-yard touchdown.

Darren Waller then drew Las Vegas within a TD when he caught a 3-yard pass with 1:44 remaining in the third.

The Chargers Hollywood Park home has a roof over it, but the start of the game was delayed 35 minutes due to lightning strikes in the area. SoFi Stadium is classified as open-air due to the north side being open on the upper deck. Torrential rain hit the Los Angeles area nearly an hour before kickoff.

"I've never had an indoor stadium with a lightning delay. This is a bizarre night for all of us," said Gruden, who added he didn't receive an explanation for the delay.

Joey Bosa recorded his 50th career sack during the first quarter when he brought down Carr for a 9-yard loss and forced a fumble that ended up being recovered by Las Vegas guard John Simpson.

Bosa, who is in his sixth season, reached it in 67 career games, faster than any Chargers player since sacks were kept as an official stat in 1982.

Raiders cornerbacks Damon Arnette (groin) and Trayvon Mullen Jr. (foot) were injured during the first quarter and did not return. Cornerback Nate Hobbs suffered a concussion in the second half. Tight end Derrick Carrier (pectoral) also had an injury during the first half.

Rams determined to rebound from thrashing on short week

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Rams' three-game stint as the best-looking team in the league came to an abrupt halt in their blowout loss to Arizona.

Coach Sean McVay still believes the 37-20 thrashing couldn't have happened at a much better time for the Rams (3-1), who probably won't get a minute to dwell on it while they prepare to visit Seattle on Thursday night.

"We won't allow one game to define us," McVay said Monday. "It was not the outing we wanted from anybody, but fortunately we've got a short week to dust ourselves off and get back ready to roll."

The Rams' mistakes against the unbeaten Cardinals were large and fundamental — and largely absent from Los Angeles' first three games.

Early offensive turnovers forced their defense into bad positions, and Kyler Murray thoroughly exploited his opportunities. Matthew Stafford wasn't terribly sharp for the first time wearing a horned helmet, and McVay admits he didn't call a good game.

But every problem stemmed from the fact Murray and the Cards rolled through the Rams' defense, which was the best in the NFL last season. After two straight rough outings against the offenses run by elite quarterbacks with Tampa Bay and Arizona, the Los Angeles defense gets no respite with Russell Wilson across the line this week.

The Rams suspected they would take a step back this season defensively after losing coordinator Brandon Staley and four starters, but they still feel their offense took a big step forward despite a mediocre outing against Arizona. McVay and his players remain confident they can do enough offensively to keep their defense in any game.

"You turn the ball over twice in the first half, and then the other drives didn't really go for touchdowns," left tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "We had to settle for field goals, and we weren't able to punch it in. Yesterday, seven points was what you were going to have to get when you had the football."

WHAT'S WORKING

The running game was outstanding when McVay deigned to use it. Darrell Henderson rushed for 89 yards on just 14 carries as his offensive line opened up significant gaps, and LA finished with 123 yards on the ground despite just 23 attempts by McVay.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The last two games have evoked memories of the 2019 defense that prompted McVay to upend his coaching staff. Los Angeles has yielded 911 combined yards to Tampa Bay and Arizona, and not even an impressive season from Jalen Ramsey has covered up for this group's weaknesses in pass coverage and on the defensive line. Midseason personnel moves are tough, but that's never stopped Rams general manager Les Snead, who might do well to look for a veteran defensive back.

STOCK UP

WR Van Jefferson continues to improve in his second NFL season. He caught all six balls thrown to him by Stafford for 90 yards and an early touchdown against Arizona. He has been targeted 18 times this season, as many as tight end Tyler Higbee and only seven fewer than Robert Woods.

STOCK DOWN

CB David Long Jr. was clearly targeted by Murray and Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury, particularly early on. Long allowed five catches for 89 yards and a touchdown, including a 41-yard TD grab by A.J. Green on which Long committed a penalty and still couldn't stop it. It's unclear whether Long is a viable long-term replacement for Troy Hill as LA's nickel back.

INJURIES

Henderson had the second-biggest game of his NFL career after missing last week with a rib injury. Short weeks are particularly hard on running backs, so Sony Michel could get more action in Seattle.

KEY NUMBER

0-3: The Rams' record in their all-blue uniform combination after losing to Arizona. Los Angeles hasn't won while wearing royal-blue jerseys and uniform pants since its comprehensive uniform redesign in 2020.

NEXT STEPS

A win over the Seahawks would put the Rams right back on track in the NFC West and the overall race to be a Super Bowl contender, but it's a tall order on a short week.

Plenty of drama this year with current playoff format

By NOAH TRISTER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

Baseball's regular season closed with a flourish—the New York Yankees and Boston both won in their last at-bat to wrap up playoff spots.

And for a while, it looked like there might be even more excitement than that.

The final day began with four teams still in the mix for the American League's two wild cards — all of them within a game of each other — and the top two teams in baseball fighting it out for the NL West title. For all the talk about postseason expansion, the current format held up pretty well this year, if the idea is to create compelling, close races at the end of the season.

Consider what this year's standings would have produced if baseball had a 14-team postseason with four wild cards per league. In the AL, seventh-place Seattle finished four games ahead of eighth-place Oakland. No race to the finish there, and the fight for the No. 1 seed (and a first-round bye) would have gone comfortably to Tampa Bay.

In the NL, the Giants and Dodgers would have battled to the end for the top seed, the same way they did for the division title. Seventh-place Philadelphia finished three games ahead of a sub-.500 San Diego team.

What makes the conversation about postseason expansion tricky is that it's hard to find consensus on what the goal of the playoff format should be. Is it to reward the best teams? Is it to keep more teams in the race? Is it to create an exciting finish to the regular season for neutral fans?

AP

Boston Red Sox's Xander Bogaerts, left, Kyle Schwarber, center and Rafael Devers, right, celebrate after a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in Washington.

The 106-win Dodgers, who finished a game behind San Francisco in the NL West, now have to face St. Louis in a single-elimination situation. Meanwhile, 88-win Atlanta goes straight to the Division Series. Maybe that seems unfair, but the current playoff format made the NL West race matter and forced both the Dodgers and Giants to keep playing important games all the way to the end.

Those are the types of tradeoffs that need to be considered.

ly hit a big home run for New York, but there were also two other homers in that game, both by Hall of Famers. Who hit them?

LINE OF THE WEEK

Brandon Lowe homered three times in Tampa Bay's 12-2 win over the Yankees on Saturday. That was the 100th victory of the year for the Rays, the first time they've reached that mark.

COMEBACK OF THE WEEK

Colorado allowed seven runs in the third inning at Arizona on Friday night. It was still 7-0 in the sixth when the Rockies rallied with six runs of their own. Then they scored three runs in the ninth and won 9-7. At one point Colorado had a 0.9% chance to win, according to Baseball Savant.

That was one of 110 losses this season for Arizona, which finished tied with Baltimore for the worst record in the majors.

HIGHLIGHT

Every out was big for the Yankees in their 1-0 win over Tampa Bay on Sunday that wrapped up their playoff spot. Shortstop Gio Urshela caught a foul popup at full speed after a long run in the sixth inning, and his momentum sent him falling down the steps into the Rays' dugout. He held onto the ball for the out and stayed in the game for a bit, although he was eventually replaced.

TRIVIA TIME

The Red Sox host the Yankees in the AL wild-card game Tuesday. That will be the first time those rivals have played a winner-take-all matchup in Boston since their one-game tiebreaker for the 1978 AL East title. Bucky Dent famous-

Turner, Gurriel win batting titles in boom-and-bust season

NEW YORK (AP)—Trea Turner of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston's Yuli Gurriel won their first batting titles Sunday in a season of boom and bust that saw four teams lose 100 games for only the third time, and four 90-game winners in the AL East alone.

Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels was a singular sensation with a superlative two-way season, unmatched even by Babe Ruth.

Turner hit .328 to top defending NL batting champion Juan Soto of Washington, who hit .313.

"It's consistency, which I pride myself on and showing up every day," said the 28-year-old Turner, traded from Washington to Los Angeles in late July. "You've got to qualify for certain awards and have a certain amount of at-bats, and it's hard if you're not out there on the field. That's part of being prepared and being lucky. It's been a good season from a health standpoint."

Gurriel batted .319 to lead the AL; Astros teammate Michael Brantley was second at .311, just ahead of Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr., also at .311. Gurriel entered as a defensive replacement in the ninth inning Sunday and hit a game-ending single that beat Oakland 7-6.

"It's something really important," Gurriel said through a translator. "I think everybody knows it's a big deal and it's tough to win a batting title."

At 37, he is the second-oldest batting champion behind 38-year-old Barry Bonds in 2002.

"It says a lot about the fact that veteran players still have a lot to offer in this game," Gurriel said.

The 27-year-old Ohtani was second in the AL to Guerrero Jr. with a .592 slugging percentage. Ohtani led the AL with eight triples and was third in the major leagues with 46 home runs. He hit .257 with 100 RBIs and 26 stolen bases.

On the mound, he paced AL pitchers with a .122 opponents' batting average with

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Trea Turner hits a grand slam home run against the Milwaukee Brewers during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021.

runners in scoring position. Batters hit .087 (11 for 127) against his splitter, the lowest for any pitch in the majors with a minimum 110 plate appearances.

On the basepaths, his 4.09 seconds sprint time from home to first was the fastest in the big leagues.

Kansas City catcher Salvador Perez and Guerrero tied for the major league home run title with 48 each, two more than Ohtani had, and San Diego's Fernando Tatis Jr. topped the NL with 42. Perez also led the AL with 121 RBIs and Adam Duvall led the NL with 113 for Miami and Atlanta.

Standings reflected the trend to teams going all in or bailing out and tearing down. San Francisco (107), the Los Angeles Dodgers (106) and Tampa Bay (100) gave the major leagues three 100-win teams for the fourth straight full season. Before this run it occurred only in 1942, 1977, 1998, 2002 and 2003.

The Dodgers set a record for the most wins by a second-place team, topping the 104 of the 1909 Chicago Cubs and 1942 Brooklyn Dodgers.

Every team in the AL East other than the Orioles won at least 90 games, the first time that happened since the leagues split into three divisions each in 1994 and only the second time after the 1978 AL East with New York, Boston, Milwaukee and Baltimore.

Arizona and Baltimore (both 110), Texas (102) and Pittsburgh (100) made it the second straight full season with four 100-game losers. Before then, it only happened once, in 2002.

Julio Urías of the Dodgers was the only 20-game winner, the fewest in a full season since there were none for the fourth time in 2017. Gerrit Cole's 16 wins for the Yankees were the fewest to lead the AL in a full season.

Toronto lefty Robbie Ray became the first pitcher to lead the AL in innings without reaching 200 in a full season, at 193 1/3. Ray topped the AL with 248 strikeouts and a 2.84 ERA. Philadelphia's Zack Wheeler paced the NL with 247 strikeouts, and Milwaukee's Corbin Burnes led with a 2.43 ERA.

San Diego's Mark Melancon led the NL with 39 saves, and Chicago's Liam Hendriks had the most in the AL with 38.

Starling Marte led the majors in steals with 47 for Miami and Oakland.

There were nine postponements for COVID-19 reasons among 2,430 scheduled games, down from 45 in last year's shortened 900-game schedule.

This season had 233 games go to extra innings, up from 78 in last year's shortened season. The longest in the second season of the pandemic rule of placing a runner on second base in each extra frame was the Dodgers' 16-inning win at the Padres on Aug. 25.

Cultura cuts down opposition in Battle of the Champions

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Nolan Cultura erased Jerry Soriano twice-to-beat advantage in the finals to win the New Bamboo Bar Battle of the Champions 8-ball tournament last Friday at the New Bamboo Bar in Saipan Vegas Resort along Middle Road.

The 50-year-old services agent at National Alamo Enterprise began the evening by beating Rowell "Cobra" Mariano. He then dispatched Jess Fariñas in the second round before advancing to the semifinals with a win over Roel Baretto.

Paired against veteran pool player Jerry Soriano for a slot in the finals and the all-important twice-to-beat advantage, Cultura was the first to flinch and was relegated to the loser's bracket. He rebounded nicely from his first and only loss of the evening, beating Baretto again to earn the opportunity to battle his conqueror again for the championship.

This time, Cultura had learned his lesson and surprised Soriano in the first game to force a rubber match. In the second game, he then completed the turnaround by defeating Soriano in his own game to annex the championship.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nolan Cultura, second from right, poses with other prizewinners of the New Bamboo Bar Battle of the Champions 8-ball tournament last Friday at the New Bamboo Bar in Saipan Vegas Resort along Middle Road.

Soriano won four straight games before losing to Cultura twice in the finals. He started the night off by defeating Rey Hermogenes. He then relegated Joey Lucido to the loser's bracket, before advancing to the semis opposite Cultura after triumphing over Rolly Villanueva. He then got the better of Cultura in their first meeting, but then inexplicably collapsed in the finals.

Cultura, who started playing billiards in 2011, said he didn't think about his loss to Soriano in the semifinals coming into the finals. "I just tried to focus on the championship round and relax," he said.

The Surigao City, Surigao del Norte, Philippines native won $500 for winning the championships. Soriano went home with $250 for his runner-up finish, while Baretto and Fariñas came in third and fourth and received $100 and $50, respectively.

A total of 16 pool masters took part in the New Bamboo Bar Battle, which gathers the month's weekly winners for the monthly championship. The 8-ball tournament, sponsored by New Bamboo Bar, Saipan Vegas, and Budweiser, is held every month and for more information, call Soriano at 588-1971.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 16 participants of the New Bamboo Bar Battle of the Champions 8-ball tournament last Friday pose for a group photo prior to the competition.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	134	44
Miami	1	3	0	.250	62	109
N.Y. Jets	1	3	0	.250	47	94
New England	1	3	0	.250	71	70
South						
Tennessee	2	2	0	.500	95	111
Houston	1	3	0	.250	67	116
Indianapolis	1	3	0	.250	83	97
Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	74	115
North						
Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	105	92
Cincinnati	3	1	0	.750	92	75
Cleveland	3	1	0	.750	100	67
Pittsburgh	1	3	0	.250	67	93
West						
Denver	3	1	0	.750	83	49
L.A. Chargers	3	1	0	.750	95	74
Las Vegas	3	1	0	.750	104	100
Kansas City	2	2	0	.500	134	125

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	126	97
Washington	2	2	0	.500	101	122
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	83	95
Philadelphia	1	3	0	.250	94	106
South						
Carolina	3	1	0	.750	97	66
Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750	122	105
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	94	69
Atlanta	1	3	0	.250	78	128
North						
Green Bay	3	1	0	.750	95	100
Chicago	2	2	0	.500	64	91
Minnesota	1	3	0	.250	94	92
Detroit	0	4	0	.000	81	119
West						
Arizona	4	0	0	1.000	140	85
L.A. Rams	3	1	0	.750	115	99
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	107	102
Seattle	2	2	0	.500	103	100

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAKECARE

From Page 20

players joining this kind of competition and getting involved in activities that encourage a health and balanced lifestyle," said TakeCare health plan manager Nora Fejeran during the opening ceremony of the tournament last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The junior players in the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 saw action in singles over the weekend and will continue to play the event and the mixed doubles next weekend. The junior boys field is made up of Prince Calvo, Peter John White, Marlon Bautista Jr., Kyle Manuel, Gregory Ngotel, Kyle Salcedo, and Andre Zapata. The girls division, on the other hand, has Kaya Braxton, Charmaine Bautista, Angieleysha Punzalan, Mikayla Cunanan, Angel Joyce Reyes, Kiesha De Guzman, and C.J. Zapanta.

Salcedo is in the quarterfinals of the winner's bracket of the boys singles, which has a double-elimination format, after beating Ngotel, 11-8, 11-5. Ngotel, before losing to Salcedo prevailed over White in the opening round match, 11-8, 3-11, 11-3. Bautista and Zapata also won their opening games after topping Kyle Manuel, 11-6, 11-8, and Calvo, 6-11, 11-7, 11-10, respectively.

In the girls singles, which also has a double-elimination format, Punzalan is also in the quarterfinals following an 11-8, 11-6 triumph over Braxton. A 6-11, 11-8, 11-8 victory over Bautista moved Braxton to a second-round meeting with Punzalan, while De Guzman outclassed Reyes in the other opening round match in the division, 11-5, 11-4.

Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino is pleased that the association's junior program has made a significant stride with the inclusion of a junior event in the TakeCare Badminton Open.

"It has always been our goal to build a strong program for our youth. Badminton is a relatively new sport in the CNMI so it's been a challenge to promote it. However, through the support of companies like TakeCare and our other sponsors plus the guidance from Badminton Oceania and Badminton World Federation, we are able to reach out to the community, including the schools, by holding competitions and clinics for them," Tolentino said.

The NMBA president added that the CNMI National Badminton Team's historic stint in the Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa also allowed badminton to gain mileage in the CNMI. Next year, Tolentino is positive that the sport will draw more followers and support, as the Commonwealth hosts the Pacific Mini Games with badminton

LADY

From Page 20

ball Association-organized competition last Friday, the Lady Knights blanked the Lady Tsunamis in the battle of private schools, 2-0. Valerie Estella accounted for the only 2 points scored the entire game.

Dandan Middle School also improved its record to .500 (3-3) after dominating winless Tanapag Middle School, 21-3. DMS was led by the 17 points of Priscilla Tomokane, while Rilae Achanto scored 2 points to pace TMS, who are now at 0-6.

Grace Christian Academy and its towering center, center Azriel Fatialofa, continue to lead the team standings in middle school hoops at 7-0. The Lady Eagles and Hopwood 1 (2-4) had the day off last Friday.

First Game

Hopwood 2 12 – Saures 6, Leemarvin 4, Yleisa 2.

FMS 11 – Saralu 11.

Scoring by halves: 8-8, 12-11.

Second Game

Mt. Carmel School 2 – Estella 2.

Saipan Community School 0.

Scoring by halves: 2-0, 2-0.

Third Game

DMS 21 – Tomokane 19, Villanueva 2, Yamada 2.

TMS 3 – Achanto 2, Yumul 1.

Scoring by halves: 13-1, 21-3.

Fourth Game

Hopwood 2 10 – Paul 6, Baxter 2, Manuel 2.

Mt. Carmel School 6 – Estella 4, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by halves: 4-2, 10-6.

Fifth Game

Hopwood 2 19 – Leemarvin 12, Saures 4, Sonoda 4, Taisague 4, Yleisa 2, Christopher 2.

Saipan Community School 2 – Bacani 2.

Scoring by halves: 14-0, 29-2.

EDVALSON

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finishing kick as the latter led the 1-mile race nearly the entire time.

While he's been competing in running events the past three years, he said his first love is really soccer as he's a member of the MP United team. Edvalson added that their Tuesday and Thursday practice sessions involve a lot of running, so in a way that helps him run faster during running meets.

Asked how he'll fare in the cross country championships next week, Edvalson said he hopes he wins.

"I think I'll win because I won the last two. The first one I didn't win because I was trying to figure out how long a mile was," he said. Aside from last Saturday's race, he also won the second qualifier held on the road leading to Ladder Beach.

In the boys 12U team division, SIS won the qualifier with GTC coming in second and third going to William S. Reyes Elementary School.

In the girls 12U division, GTC's Barman proved she's equally fast in terra firma as she is in water by clocking in at 5:02. She was followed by SIS' Eliza Culp and Oleai Elementary School's Erica Long with times of 5:14 and 5.17, respectively.

Barman, who came in second in the 1,000m race of Saipan Swim Club's final Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series, said running is actually just her pastime when she doesn't have swim practice for Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan.

SIS again walloped the opposition in the girls 12U team division followed by Saipan Community School and GTC.

The Public School System has partnered with Northern Marianas Athletics, the governing body of athletics in the CNMI, to organize track and field as well as cross country events in the 2021-22 school year. The cross country championships will be held this Saturday again at the golf course behind Saipan Vegas.

Herbert, Ekeler propel Chargers to 28-14 win over Raiders
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Cultura cuts down opposition in Battle of the Champions
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Lady Hilitais 2 sweeps all 3 games

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hopwood Middle School 2 is in sole possession of second place in the IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League after completing a sweep of its three games last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Playing in back-to-back-to-back games in Friday's five-game set, the Lady Hilitais 2 edged Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, 12-11, in the opener. Leona Saures and Kialeen Leemarvin combined for 10 points to lead Hopwood 2, while all of FMS' points were put up by Rosie Saralu.

The Lady Hilitais 2 played again in the fourth game and downed Mt. Carmel School, 10-6, before suiting up a few minutes later and beat Saipan Community School, 19-2.

Trista Paul's 6 points paced Hopwood 2 in the win against the Lady Knights, while the 12 points of Leemarvin led them in the victory against the Lady Tsunamis. The triple wins hiked Hopwood 2's win-loss record to 5-2. FMS is now at 3-2, while MCS and SCS are now at 2-4 following their setbacks against Hopwood 2.

In other games of the Northern Mariana Islands Basket-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Dandan Middle School defender, left, pressures a Hopwood Middle School 2 during an earlier game in the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Dandan and Hopwood 2 played last Friday and won their matches.

Edvalson, Barman win elementary cross country

By MARK RABAGO
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Akeen Edvalson and Sari Barman won the elementary school division of the final PSS/NMA Cross Country Qualifier last Saturday at the old Saipan Country Club golf course behind Saipan Vegas.

Edvalson, a sixth grader from Brilliant Star School, beat out Saipan International School's Finn Altizer in the boys 12U division in a time of 4:47. Altizer, who won the first qualifier during the Gecko 3000 at Banzai Cliff, crossed the finish line in 4:48. Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Derence Benjamin completed the Top 3 with a run of 5:13.

The 11-year-old Edvalson said he only managed to beat Altizer because of his strong

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TakeCare Badminton Open features junior competition

TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. marked its inaugural sponsorship of a sports tournament in the CNMI with a junior competition in the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021.

Fourteen players signed up for the junior division of Northern Marianas Badminton Association's third event of the season and they are products of NMBA's junior development program and the recent summer camp. It's the first time that the association hosted a separate competition for players in the U18 age group.

"It's encouraging to see many young players joining the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 and TakeCare would like to commend the NMBA for making the program available to our youth. We hope to see more young

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Charmaine Bautista returns to Mikayla Cunanan during a warm-up game in the junior division of the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Junior players competing in the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 pose for a photo with TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. employees led by health plan manager Nora Fejeran, fifth left, and Northern Marianas Badminton Association officials headed by president Merlie Tolentino, third left, during the opening ceremony of the tournament last Friday at the Gilbert C. Gymnasium.